

March 31, 1921.

To the Native Church at Wrangell:-

Our very dear Friends,

It is now more than forty years since your mission and church were established under our care. We have watched your growth in Christian life and civilization with very great interest. We thank God that your people have come out of heathen darkness into the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are proud of you and we believe that you are ready to go on to greater things in the future.

You have done so well that we believe the time has come for you to take another step in advance and that is to do something towards supporting your own church.

This Mission Board, which has supported you for forty years, has been enlarging its work all over the United States and has been increasing the amount of money given for Home Missions every year. So many millions of people demand our help that our Board finds itself facing the greatest debt of its history. We are calling upon our children everywhere in all mission churches, to help us more than they have ever done before in order that the Gospel may still be preached everywhere and sinners may be converted to God.

Heretofore the Indian Churches of Alaska have been the only ones of all the Indian Churches who have given little or nothing to help themselves. We are now asking your church, during the coming year, from March 1st, the sum of \$200. This will be an average of \$2.00 for each member during the year, or \$.04 a week. Some of you can raise more than this, while others may find it hard to raise as much. The strong must help the weak. Many of the Indian women can make a basket or weave a rug, which will pay their dues. The men can give their wages for a few days without any serious loss to themselves.

Read Malachi, third chapter and tenth verse, which preaches God's command to us; we are happy and prosperous only when we obey His commands.

Other Indian tribes in other parts of the United States have been very generous in their efforts towards paying for the Gospel preached among them. Among the Nez Perces in Idaho their five churches pay all but from \$100 to \$140 each for the support of the Gospel among them. In Dakota and Wyoming, the Sioux and other Indians are doing the same thing. These missions are happy and those that give most are the happiest.

When you first began to come to the Light, you were as babies, new born, weak and ignorant and unable to help yourselves. Now you are

March 31, 1921.

Mr. & Mrs. George Barnes,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

My dear friends,

Last Thursday our Board of Home Missions passed a resolution sending me to Alaska for six months. I expect to start about April 26th. I shall have to stop at Seattle a few days and look after papers, books and goods that I have there, and then I shall hasten at once to Wrangell. I am to look after the churches there until Mr. Diven arrives, which will be about July 1st. He is to have charge of that mission. I hope to get together the scattered remnants of my old native church and infuse new life into them, and also with the help of you and other friends to do what I can to build up the white congregation. I have been so long out of touch with Wrangell that I do not know how conditions are there.

I expect to hire Mrs. Tilly Paul Tamaree to help me collect Alaska legends and furbish up memories of those old times. I shall remain at Wrangell until after Mr. Diven arrives and then go on to Sitka, Hydaburg and other missions. I have two months vacation in the Fall and expect to go to southwest Alaska after big game.

I cannot tell you how happy I am in the prospect of seeing you all again and renewing my life in my beloved territory. To me there never will be any place quite so fine and desirable as Alaska.

My daughter, Alaska, (Marnie), now Mrs. Kleinschmidt and her three girls live with me. I would like to take them along, but cannot afford it.

I wonder if it would be possible for me to board with you while I am at Wrangell? If you have room and could take me, that would be most delightful. If that cannot be, can you tell me of another place to stop? I shall be two months or more at your town, and shall be hard at work all the time. Please let me hear from you soon. Give my warmest regards to any of my friends who are yet living at Wrangell. Are your son and his bride there with you? Where is Tilly Paul Tamaree and what has she done in the way of taking care of the Indian church?

With very warm regards, I am,

Your old friend,

March 31, 1921.

Mrs. Tilly Paul Tamaree,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

My dear friend,

I am writing to tell you that I expect to reach Wrangell about the second week in May. I am to spend six months in Alaska and the first two months or more I shall be at Wrangell, trying to gather together our church there and to unite the Indians in the mother mission and get things ready for your new pastor, Rev. Dr. Diven.

One of my principal objects in going to Wrangell is to gather material for a book I am writing about my life in southeastern Alaska. I wish to get clearly in my mind the Indian legends and stories, the names of all the chiefs and their people who were perhaps of my congregation in those old times, the history of those ten years, my struggle with witch craft, etc. etc. There is nobody in the world who can help me as much as you can. If you can give me a part of your time for a month or two, I shall pay you well for it.

After Mr. Diven arrives I expect to go to Hydaburg and Sitka to collect material there for my books and illustrated lectures.

Please write me at once telling me if you can assist me in getting the material I want for my book, and for my lectures. Also please tell me whether they have electricity in Wrangell and whether there is a stereoptican machine there. If so, I will bring a lot of colored slides and give you some picture lectures.

Give my love to your husband and to any of my old friends who may be alive and should remember me.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Your warm friend,

SHY:JD

JUN 13 1921

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

WILTON MERLE-SMITH, PRESIDENT
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VARIAN BANKS, ASSISTANT TREASURER

WRANGELL, ALASKA
June 2nd, 1921

S. HALL YOUNG,
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. John Dixon, D. D.,
156 5th Ave.,
New York City.

*Check for \$500. drawn
against last year's %
held - for Wrangell*

Dear Dr. Dixon;-

This letter concerns the Wrangell mission and the services of Mrs. Tillie Paul-Tamaree.

In another letter I shall set forth at length my impressions as to the condition of the Wrangell mission and its prospects for the future. Just now I shall only speak of the condition of the church as Mr. Clark left it, and of Mrs. Paul-Tamaree's services to it.

Mr. Clark's departure was very sudden. He had been steadily losing ground both as regards the native church and the white. He had very few friends and the church was in a sad condition. I can explain the situation more fully when I return.

Mrs. Paul-Tamaree went to the elders of the church, Judge W. B. Thomas and Mr. George Barnes and asked them whether she should go on holding services for the natives. They encouraged her to do so. Mrs. Mason, one of the faithful members of the church continued as superintendent of the Sunday school, and afterwards Mrs. William L. Paul, Tillie's daughter-in-law, and the daughter of a Presbyterian clergyman, became its supertendent.

In addition to helping in the Sunday school, Mrs. Paul-Tamaree became virtually paster of the First Presbyterian Church, preaching twice every Sunday and holding prayer meetings every Wednesday evening. She visited the sick, counselled the natives, looked after the dead, and in short, did what Mr. Clark never did, a full measure of pastoral duties. She is looked up to by the natives as their mother in Christ and respected by the whites.

The Presbytery should have taken notice of her services and applied to the Board for remuneration at the end of the fiscal years 1919 to 1920, and 1920 to 1921, and perhaps the failure of Mrs. Tamaree and the elders to draw the attention of the Presbytery to these services was partially responsible for the neglect.

Last winter I called the attention of Mr. Bruce to Mrs. Tamaree's services and asked him whether the Presbytery should not take measures to reimburse her for her services. He replied that they were in sympathy with my suggestion, but that they had no data as to the time and amount of her services. A copy of her account of these services and the moneys that she collected and used for incidentals is herewith enclosed. She prepared it for and sent it to the Presbytery.

By this you will see that Mrs. Tamaree acted as pastor for the First Church of Wrangell for fourteen full months. She does not make any account of the five months last summer during which she was absent from the mission. Thus counting in April of the present fiscal year, Mrs. Tamaree has faithfully attended to the pastoral duties of this church for 14 months. She has done more than this because during part of September last year, she was present and preached and also during part of May of this year. Upon consultation with the elders and with Mr. Diven, I have concluded to recommend that Mrs. Paul-Tamaree be paid \$50. per month for her services during the 14 months while this church was without a regular pastor, which will amount to \$700. Wrangell was on the budget of the Board during that time at the full rate of salary paid to Mr. Clark.

I hope there will be no hesitation on the part of the Board in paying this just account. A prompt sending of a check to Mrs. Tillie Paul-Tamaree will do much towards encouraging her to continue her splendid work among these people as the pastor's right hand in the native work, and also it will encourage the native church.

I append the recommendations of Dr. Diven and the elders. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Condit and another to Rev. Bruce. I am sure they will endorse this application.

Very sincerely,

Stallings
Mr. G. Thomas, Elder.

Enc. Report of Collections

Geo H Barnes, Elder.

Dr. Diven

*I take pleasure in giving
heartly endorsement to this rec-
ommendation for the payment of
\$700.00 to Mrs. Tillie Paul-Tamaree,
Robert Joseph Diven.*

JUN 13 1921

FINANCIAL REPORT
-of-
WRANGELL NATIVE CHURCH, WRANGELL, ALASKA

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|
| October 1919 | Offering entire month | - - - - - | \$ 7.00 | |
| November 9, | " | - - - - - | .70 | |
| " 16, | " | - - - - - | 2.50) | |
| " 23 | " | x Max Service |) | |
| " 30 | " | No Service, Funeral | | |
| November 6 | Expense, Wood | - - - - - | \$10.10 | |
| | " Light | - - - - - | 2.65 | |
| December 7 | Offering | - - - - - | 1.60- | |
| " 14 | " | - - - - - | .90 | |
| " 21 | " | - - - - - | 2.05 | |
| " 27 | " | - - - - - | 1.00 | |
| December 6 | EXPENSE Wood | - - - - - | 4.50 | |
| | Light | - - - - - | | |
| | Christmas Tree | - - - - - | 5.50 | |
| | To poor | - - - - - | 1.00 | |
| ****1920 | ***** | | | |
| January 5 | Offering @ | - - - - - | 1.80- | |
| " 12 | " | - - - - - | .80 | |
| " 19 | " | - - - - - | 1.65 | |
| " 25 | " | - - - - - | 1.70 | |
| January 25 | EXPENSE Coal @ | - - - - - | 11.25 | 11.25 |
| February 1 | Offering | - - - - - | 2.40 | |
| " 8 | " | - - - - - | .95 | |
| " 15 | " | - - - - - | 1.67 | |
| " 22 | " | - - - - - | .95 | |
| " 29 | " | - - - - - | 1.60 | |
| February | EXPENSE Wood @ | - - - - - | | 9.00 |
| March 7 | Offering @ | - - - - - | -2.05 | |
| " 15 | " | - - - - - | -1.20 | |
| " 22 | " | - - - - - | .85 | |
| " 29 | No Service | - - - - - | | |
| April 5 | Offering @ | - - - - - | -1.05 | |
| " 12 | " | - - - - - | -1.49 | |
| " 19 | " | - - - - - | -1.45 | |
| " 26 | " | - - - - - | -1.50 | |
| April 5 | EXPENSE, Easter Eggs for Easter | - - - - - | 1.60 | |
| | " Wood | - - - - - | -44.50 | |
| | ***** | TOTAL | \$38.86 | 40.10 |
| NO SERVICES DURING SUMMER.***** | | | | |
| October 1920 | Brought forward | | \$ 38.86 | 40.10 |
| October 3 | Offering @ | - - - - - | -1.85 | |
| " 10 | " | - - - - - | -1.85 | |
| " 17 | " | - - - - - | -1.20 | |
| " 24 | " | - - - - - | -1.20 | |
| " 31 | " | - - - - - | -1.25 | |
| October 24 | EXPENSE | | | |
| | Wood @ | - - - - - | 5.15 | 5.15 |
| | Stove-pipe- | - - - - - | 5.25 | 5.25 |
| | Labor | - - - - - | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| November 7 | Offering | - - - - - | -1.00 | |
| " 14 | " | - - - - - | -2.00 | |
| " 21 | " | - - - - - | .70 | |
| " 28 | " | - - - - - | .85 | |
| " 25 | Thanksgiving Offering | - - - - - | -5.00 | |
| November 18 | EXPENSE | | | |
| | Wood | - - - - - | | -18.75 |
| December 5 | Offering | - - - - - | .50 | |
| " 12 | " | - - - - - | .70 | |
| " 19 | " | - - - - - | -1.70 | |
| " 26 | " | - - - - - | -1.50 | |
| December | EXPENSE Christmas | - - - - - | | 2.25 |
| | Window pane | - - - - - | | 2.25 60 |
| | Labor | - - - - - | | 2.00 |
| | Padlock | - - - - - | | 1.45 |
| | Candy | - - - - - | | 4.00 |

JUN 13 1921

1920 - Report Wrangell Native Church #2.

| | | | | | |
|----------|------|---|-------------|----------|--------------------|
| | | Brought forward | - - - - - | | |
| January | 2 | Offering | - - - - - | \$1.00 | |
| | 9 | " | - - - - - | .90 | |
| | 16 | " | - - - - - | 1.15 | |
| | 23 | " | - - - - - | 1.25 | |
| | 30 | " | - - - - - | 1.00 | |
| January | 6 | EXPENSE | | | |
| | | Lights | - - - - - | | \$6.50 |
| February | 7 | Offering | - - - - - | .70 | |
| | 14 | " | - - - - - | 1.20 | |
| | 21 | " | - - - - - | .90 | |
| | 28 | " | - - - - - | .95 | |
| | | | | \$62.21 | 87.05 |
| | | Total | - - - - - | | |
| February | 8 | Brought forward | | 62.21 | 87.05 |
| | 8 | EXPENSE | | | |
| | | Stove | - - - - - | 6.75 | 6.75 |
| March | 6 | Offering | - - - - - | 1.05 | |
| | 13 | " | - - - - - | .65 | |
| | | TOTAL | - - - - - | \$70.91 | 93.80 |
| | | Cash on hand October 1919 | | 64.00 | |
| | | Cash in Bank 1921 | | | 26.65 |
| | | Cash on hand March 13, 1921 | | | 7.71 |
| | | Due from Second Presbyterian Church for wood | | | 6.75 |
| | | TOTAL | | | |
| | | BALANCE March 13, 1921 | - - - - - | \$134.91 | \$134.91 |
| | | Additional report for April and May, 1921 Including part of March. | | | |
| March | 20 | | - - - - - | 1.25 | |
| | 27 | | - - - - - | 1.40 | 2.65 |
| | | | | | 137.56 |
| | | EXPENSE | | | |
| | | Easter Eggs | 2.00 | | |
| | | Janitor | .50 | | |
| | | Gift to poor | 1.00 | | 3.50 |
| | | | | | 134.06 |
| April | 3rd | | | 45¢ | |
| | 10th | | | .75 | |
| | 17th | | | .45 | |
| | 24th | Collection 75¢ Janitor 50¢ | | .25 | |
| May | 1st | | | 1.15 | Janitor 50¢net .65 |
| | 9th | Janitor 50¢ collection | 1.20 | | |
| | 16th | 50 | 1.90 | | |
| | 21 | 50 | 1.35 | | |
| | | 1.50 | 4.45 net | | 2.95 |
| | | | Balance Net | | 137.66 |

JUL 8 - 1921

D. L. Morgan ✓
TREASURER'S DEPT.

Wrangell, Alaska, June 28, 1921.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Doctor Dixon:-

ok
I am inclosing voucher for the full amount of my salary for the month of June, according to the advice of Doctor Young and your letter saying same had been decided on, with understanding that full payment is to be made by the Board till October 1, 1921. Your check for \$83.30 has just arrived for June, but that sum is \$50.00 short of the stipulated monthly salary. The check should have read \$133.30 for June.

I am leaving Doctor Young to report on his findings at Wrangell. I am glad I am here, and I shall do my best. The state of religion in this community is, however, anything but cheerful or inspiring. The need of constructive work is great and appeals to me. Ministers and preaching are the things least esteemed hereabouts just now. The people are not specially to be blamed for their attitude. I would worship God in some other way too, if I were in a community where the atmosphere of the church were maintained in such miasmatic condition as has prevailed here for years and years. The remnant deserve great ~~appreciat~~ appreciation for not giving it up altogether. It is a Sunday school I have fallen heir to here. There is no church; only a name, a Sunday school and an admirable Ladies Aid -- God bless them!

Faternally,

Dixon

July 5, 1921.

Miss Edna R. Voss,
BUILDING.

My dear Miss Voss:

Your letter in regard to Dr. Robert J. Diven and the Superintendency of the Sheldon Jackson School at Sitka is just here. Our Board is quite willing that Dr. Diven should be released from Wrangell to take charge of the work of both our Boards at Sitka. From all you and others have reported of the condition at Sitka, our judgment is that a single head should demonstrate the entire Presbyterian work there. Furthermore, we could not regard ourselves as justified in assigning a man of Dr. Diven's calibre to a smaller job as either the work of our own Board or your Board separately would furnish in Sitka.

Should you be willing to accept Dr. Diven on the above understanding, we should like to be advised of it as soon as possible in order that we may make arrangements for the transfer of the man now there, Dr. Buchanan.

Very sincerely yours

JAM:MEL.

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THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY [INCORPORATED]
TRANSMITS AND DELIVERS THIS MESSAGE SUBJECT TO THE
TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THIS BLANK.

SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

Form 2

July, 13, 1921.

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D. D.,
Wrangell, Alaska.

Advise reconsidering decision on Sitka. Stop. We think it very important that school and church be ynder one head. Stop. Both Boards will support you. Our Board furnishing needed assistant workers for Church and Women's Board workers in school. Stop. Wire your mature judgment. Stop. Will do our share to care for Wrangell.

John A. Marquis.

C O P Y

N I G H T L E T T E R

JUL 23 1921

Wrangell, Alaska, July 14, 1921.

Rev. John A. Marquis, LL.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Doctor Marquis:- I have just left at the cable office the following message, in reply to yours of the thirteenth just at hand:

"Wrangell, Alaska, July 14, 1921.

"With sincerest regret I must still decline the work you so graciously urge me to undertake. My letters of July eleventh and fourteenth will make clear why I decline. Those letters should reach you in ten days. Very cordially, Robert Joseph Diver."

I did not intend to say anything about the gravest reason why I feel that I must not undertake the Sheldon Jackson work, but here it is: I am possessed of eyes that threatened me with blindness some eighteen years ago, while in the extreme brightness of Eastern Oregon sunshine and alkali dust. By great carefulness the trouble was stopped and I went happily on with my mission work, though in humbler fields. My four years in the intense sunshine of Interior Alaska summers and the prolonged electric light of the winters, coupled with the three winters of night teaching in that electric light, have caused a recurrence of the old threat. That is one reason why I am so glad to get back to the heavenly balm of this coast climate. We have sunshine here, but it is so delightfully modified by the vapors and clouds that it soothes and refreshes. The change, both in climate and character of work, will, I hope, arrest the threatened very unattractive prospect. I surely hope to serve several more years in the active work on the mission field. There is only one other line of effort connected with missions that would appeal to me very strongly, and I know that it is a difficult line notwithstanding its allurements for one who delights to tell a story about the country, the people and the work -- lecturing in the interests of Home Missions.

Aside from the despair into which my early removal would throw the little group of faithful people here, the almost numberless and really serious problems of the work in Sitka seem to shut me out. I know too much about that work to take it lightly. Unless spirits have grown sweeter and minds more reasonable in Sitka and in other villages along the coast, I fear I would be stone blind inside a twelve-month in that work.

The man who heads that work must administer affairs with a strong but gentle hand, and he must find some way to overcome the prejudices that have been starngling that institution; prejudices wickedly fostered by both natives and whites. That man will have to go some.

Wrangell has been chloroformed into a state of irreligion, save for a very few people, and they are nearly all in my parish and not desirous of being left longer to struggle alone, or to be turned over to the loathsome ministrations of the ex-Presbyterian minister whom Bishop Rowe turned into a perfectly good Episcopalian priest. That man stuck by the town through thick and thin. The Bishop got an Episcopal church and congregation here through him. The man escaped being fired by his former brethren, and has consistently sought to exterminate Presbyterian work here. Openly he welcomes me, but the walls of the hotel in which I am compelled to room while the manse is being built are very thin. My presence here

in Wrangell is causing him and his cohorts, who hate Presbyterians just as he does, the first serious reflections they would seem to have indulged in for a long while. They had figured to their satisfaction that our church would not send another man here. Spiritually, their church has not been cutting any figure here for years -- which I am forced to believe is true of our own church as well. Women and children, almost exclusively, make up the church societies here, and very few women are communicants of any church. Men have been out of touch with active religious work for so long a time that they are absolutely indifferent; many are openly scoffers at and abusers of the church -- especially the Presbyterian church. (Ask Dr. Young to tell you why.)

With the sending of Mrs. Diven and myself to Wrangell, the people in some quarters seem to have taken new courage. There is a field here for just such work as I have done in certain other mission parishes. It will take longer to "grow" a congregation here than in ~~parishes~~ any other field I have served, perhaps. I must first win the confidence of the people.

What I shall be able to accomplish among the younger natives is a big conundrum. They have almost no use for the church or minister. They have grown too wise, and are determined to have their fling at everything bad that they can get a crack at -- and it is surely setting them away back. (Again I suggest that you ask Dr. Young for particulars.)

I know my refusal to go to Sitka is a disappointment to you good people over there in New York, but we'll just expect to see something better than my going there could have brought. God give us men!

The new manse is rising daily and will be a cosy home. The old one was badly decayed, and so smelly with that decayed and morgue smell that it was no longer a fit place for a preacher to live in. His sermons would surely smell musty, whether kept in a barrel or on a shelf.

I cannot refrain from telling you a good one on our dear friend, S. Hall Young. I used it to illustrate one of my points in a sermon on PRACTICAL FAITH, much to his disgust.

It was in the days of McKay, the immense preacher who came to this Wrangell field after Doctor Young had left it. Young, McKay and an Indian had made quite a journey in a log canoe. Returning, they ran into a bit of wind on a rather wide expanse of water. All three were paddling as ~~hard~~ hard as possible. McKay suggested that it might be wise to pray for safe passage. The Indian and Dr. Young agreed that it might be fitting, for the sea was rapidly growing menacing. ~~Dr. Young said, "You pray, McKay."~~

Dr. Young said, "You pray, McKay." But the Indian instantly shouted, "No! No! Mr. Young pray, and big man paddle!"

With much love to all of you.

Robert Joseph Diven

NOV 1 - 1921

File
note WRP
Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York, N. Y.

File
Wrangell, Alaska, October 21, 1921.

My dear Doctor Dixon:-

Here are three, *✓* THE FIRST AND ONLY

✓ OFFICIAL pictures of the Wrangell manse. I took these with my old kodak which I have had for twenty years. Please look, admire or condemn, and pass them on to Doctor Patterson for use in making cuts, if he so desires. I

have been fearful that Doctor Young would get there first with some of his numerous shots at the manse, all of which, so far, have the work bench etc. on the front porch. There is no need of having the contractor's work bench in a cut of a new manse. There is nothing of special interest about the bench.

I hope the manse will appeal to you dear folks in New York as worthy of your two Boards. I am about as proud of it as a cow is of her first calf. Its interior is quite as attractive as the exterior. The rubbish heap left from the old manse will be cleared away by myself this winter - some job, too.

I wish the Home Board would signify its willingness to supplement the Erection Board's two hundred additional, thus enabling us to make a finished job. You see, the contract did not call for cloth and paper upstairs, nor did it (it could not) include the expensive and unavoidable sewer and water connections. The thirty-eight hundred went into the house, every dollar. You ^{Indian} could not get any builder excepting some simple-minded ~~maxima~~ to agree to

try to duplicate this house for less than five thousand dollars. I drove the inside walls of the upstairs myself. The contractor provided the materials and a carpenter to do the sawing. I know that the contractor is getting out with bare carpenter's wages for himself, and he worked harder than any of his men. I was sure he had underestimated his labor bill in the contract. He is a man of the right type, however, and fulfilled his contract to the letter.

✓ By the way, Doctor Dixon, I hope you can induce the Board to send me that fifty dollars I had to expend for room while the house was building. You will see, by referring to the letter, that I put up the other fifty of the hundred dollars room rent as a bill for the local church to pay. They did pay. I need the other fifty now to set me square with the world again. I know you have all been busy, and perhaps money is scarce, but it is worse than scarce here.

With love and good wishes.

Robert Joseph Dixon

Wrangell, Alaska, Nov. 4, 1921.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D., LL.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

My dear Doctor Marquis:-

I believe I have never written you a letter, excepting the little notes that have accompanied my reports -- which have been all too few. I have just finished my report for the last quarter, and I feel that almost an apology is due you for its seemingly humorous vein. I did not plan to have it so; it just did it itself. My mind has been so closely pinned to these problems through the last few months, that the quarter Irish that is in me is beginning to slip from beneath the three-quarters Scotch as some of the perplexing clouds begin to show signs of scattering from the Wrangell horizon.

1. The Native Situation: I knew what Doctor Young would surely encounter here. For a long time I have known that he was living with his head in the clouds. When he talks Alaska he sees only Alaska of long ago, financially and commercially, because he has been out of living touch with the blessed country during its years of appalling decline. His descriptions, in his lectures, are accurate and enthralling; but he fails to tell the whole story. When I lectured in Washington, D.C., six years ago, in New York Avenue Church and in Old First, a business man asked me, before the lecture, why Alaskans have to come to the States to draw money from the hard-driven people of the States to build churches and maintain them, when Alaska is producing so many millions of wealth each year. He said he had wanted to ask Doctor Young, after his lecture in another city, but did not get a chance. I asked him if he did not know that at that moment about ninety-five per cent of the capital used

in Alaska was States capital, and that the revenues from the same came back to the States, Alaska getting only the merest pittance from taxes; and that we had to follow it back to the States in order to beg enough to establish and maintain such institutions as were not in line to get even a morsel from the Territorial revenues. A business man, he saw the point and thanked me. I have already put several such things up to the dear Doctor, in hope that he will prepare himself and present them in future lectures. The fact that I suggested it will probably insure that he will not do it, for I have been with him and had to witness his disappointment and chagrin, daily, as he painfully awoke to the native situation and the financial crisis Alaskan. But a small percentage of capital once active is active now, or has been active recently. All natives work for somebody, all but a very few, ~~who work at all~~. When there is no work there is no income - all of which is quite as true of whites as of natives. And this fact is not a knock at Alaska. Alaska will come back strong, someday. If we get our pulp mills on this part of the coast, that will help decidedly. When cannery men get settled down under the new administration, and see a chance to exploit their business again, that, too, will help. When that long-drawn-out railroad becomes an accomplished fact, that will change Interior Alaska's outlook. Till that time Interior Alaska will continue to hang by her eyebrows, her boosting literature to the contrary notwithstanding.

I started with the native situation, and have told you about the white situation, too; just like the evangelist who took a text and then went everywhere preaching the gospel. But, don't be disheartened as a Board. The church's money has not been wasted, even though we lose the

natives in many places as completely as they have been lost in Wrangell. Proud, ignorant and misguided, and not now willing to accept guidance, the younger native element has gone out to get some experience. He will eventually return. God give us grace to treat his neck scripturally, instead of wringing it, when he returns. The younger natives swung off after the Episcopalian's flowing robes; then he followed the Salvation Army band and uniform; now he is chiefly interested in hooch and the grossest immorality, hereabouts. Pray that wisdom may be given me to see how to reach him. I do not now see how to do it.

As I stated in my first letter, last June, the white population here is in dire need of toning up. Spirituality seems to have vanished from thought and life, except in very limited circles. A Presbyterian minister was the last thing they were hoping for. My reception was unique. I shall ever recall it with a smile, and with a prayer of thanksgiving if I may be given grace to make the work go as it should. Men who would not speak to me on my first arrival, now treat me as they treat other men. That is big encouragement. They'll forgive ^{me} for being a minister and a Presbyterian, when they discover that I am a man and intend to treat all classes with uniform consideration. I expect to see this work on a sound basis in a few years. I hope the unnecessary land here can be sold for enough to give us a suitable parish house and to clean up the old church. It smells like a morgue, and its interior decorations savor of deep mourning and extreme premillennial good cheer, such as these people have been fed on for a long time, and refused to ^{enjoy.} ~~accept~~

((And right here, in ^a double parenthesis, may I urge you to see that we never have either a General Missionary or a pastor-at-large who is

a propagandist of that dogma, now having its heyday on the Pacific coast and in Alaska. And, please, pardon this boldness; for I fully understand that with the securing of men for such offices I have nothing to do. If Doctor Young becomes exhausted and drops out of the office which now affords his soul such delight, as yet in anticipation, send us some good executive from the States. Unless our new man, Doctor Story, is such a man, and I have never met him, I stake my reputation on the assertion that we have not now in all Alaska a man sufficient for the broad requirements of that office. Surely we will all do our best to make Doctor Young's incumbency as comfortable for him as is possible. He aspires to die in Alaska, so he asserts continually, and his cousin, the Judge, says he thinks he is now in line soon to realize his ambition. Dear man! What ^a task! May the merciful Lord of all, even now, be adjusting the intellectual machinery, enlarging the understanding, and endowing with grace some man of God down in the States; so that when another man shall be needed he shall be ready!)) As Uncle Sam's long neglected child, Alaska has for much of her life run hatless and shoeless and with skirts to her knees, not because she has been held in the thrall of fad or fashion but because she had to do it. She is a beautiful child, indeed, apt and worthy. For years we've been trying to make Uncle ashamed of his neglect and get him to give his niece a better show to grow up. We'll just keep on trying, till he does it.

The inclosed pictures of the new manse afford me genuine pleasure. I hope the supplemental four hundred dollars, two from each of the Boards, which Doctor Condit so urgently advised be given, shall come trotting along right soon. That will make a finish job, and you will possess a five thousand dollar property for an expenditure of forty-two hundred.

I am delighted that we are not to lose Doctor Condit from Alaskan work. I believe he is just the man for the Sitka School. Bad luck to any preacher in Alaska who shall fail to give him the heartiest support! He is leaving a hard and thankless job, his work faithfully done, to go to ^{one} equally hard. *Your truly*

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH

Please forward this report to the Secretary promptly after the date mentioned

Name of Missionary Robert Joseph Diven

P. O. Address { Box 103
Wrangell, Alaska.

Name of Presbytery ALASKA

STATISTICAL REPORT

In the *Statistical Report*, under "Names of Churches and Stations," please write the name of each preaching place, following each in the spaces on the same line with information as to the quarter's work.

| NAMES OF CHURCHES AND STATIONS | PREACHING SERVICES | | | | OTHER SERVICES | | | | MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MISSIONARY STUDY AND PRAYER | Number of Pastoral Calls | MEMBERS RECEIVED | | BAPTISMS | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| | SABBATH | | MID-WEEK | | SABBATH | | MID-WEEK | | | | On Ex. | OnCer. | Adult | Infant |
| | No. | Ave. Att. | No. | Ave. Att. | No. | Ave. Att. | No. | Ave. Att. | | | | | | |
| WRANGELL Thlinget | 1 | 24 | 1 | 10 | | | | | | 50 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| WRANGELL White | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 55 | | | | 60 | | 5 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

GENERAL REPORT

In the *General Report*, please give some details of the various departments of the work, with its trials and encouragements, and any facts or incidents that will inform the Board as to the field, or interest the Home Mission givers throughout the Church at large. Both sides of this sheet may be used.

Wrangell, November 4, 1921.

Dear Doctor Marquis:-

The above report is submitted with thankful feelings. When I got a line on this parish last spring, I was wondering, for a while, what I should ever be able to do with it. My senior elder was opposed to there being a minister here at all. (I refer to Judge Thomas, kin by marriage of Dr. Young). He had become so discouraged and stupidly pessimistic over church matters that he thought the Board should have waited a few more years before sending another minister here; that by that time the old hatreds, which have so marred and scarred this beautiful spot, would have died out. My first communion was a curiosity. This good elder absented himself because he could not feel himself called upon to sit down in enjoyment of the sacrament with those whom he knew to be of past bad reputation; and, lo, he himself is an old squaw-man, having lived with a squaw for some years before he put her away and later married our mutual friend's cousin. (Well, the Judge is doing better now. He is active as a member of the music committee of the church, and I think he will attend the next communion. He and I had a few very quiet but heart-to-heart talks about several things, and he seems to see with clearer vision. He now admits that he was wrong about sending a man to Wrangell. Church attendance has increased from the former fifteen to an average of fifty, in the white church.) There is a good woman here, who, like the Judge, needs a little elucidating; but her name is already old, and may be found in your archives, under the records of the reign of each of

your appointees, from the days of Doctor Young until now. Requiescat in pace! or there will be trouble of a new order in Wrangell; for I do not intend that the feeble remnants of the old guard shall again arise and scatter the new blood and dissipate the interest now in evidence in this work. A strong and courageous hand, and all the wisdom and forbearance that my modest capacity is able to entertain, will be required to advance the revised work beyond the danger point. Your last missionary here, and all the others they tell about, may have been all sorts of a Balaam pony; but, as of old, the Lord himself can do no mighty works here till the Presbyterian churches, both native and white, are shifted over to workable and worthy bases. To the Aid Society and the handful of faithful women who kept the Sunday school going too great praise cannot be given. They never agreed with the Judge's pessimism, and they took care of the good lady by going ahead and letting her follow. Sic semper etc!

Last Sunday our school had risen to seventy members. Next Sunday I am planning to be an important day here: My Bible Study Club, made up of high school students who formerly belonged to this parish but who for years have not been inside the church, will assemble for work at the manse. I hope to have at least ten such young folks. We shall take up a sixteen-weeks course similar to the work done in the Universities, so that when these young folks go to the States to school they will be prepared to receive instruction without first having to waste a lot of valuable time in trying to discover if the professors are not trying to destroy the Bible and wreck the Christian religion. I shall hope to see, within a year, most of these young men and women come into the membership of this church. A meeting of officers, teachers and elders will be held in another week, to reshape the study courses in the Sunday school; to arrange for a Home Department and a Cradle Roll; to discuss plans for the social life of the church. Soon I shall have the young men of the Bible Study Club meet two evenings a month at the manse, to discuss the hobby of each fellow, taking one hobby an evening. A little fun and ice cream will accompany these meetings.

Last Monday I had the pleasure of making the address at the formal opening of Wrangell's first public library and reading room. I had the pleasure of serving on the Library Committee that arranged the scheme for setting up the new movement. (How I enjoy seeing a community get in and dig for a common interest, instead of seeing them divided and sitting off in groups watching the different little church factions claw each other's faces, as they endeavor to see who can beat the other to some worthy thing!) The Episcopal man, our missionary here of some years ago, has the only gymnasium in town, and I intend to get our folks (the Judge and the lady excepted) to get in and help support it. It used to be that boys who used it had to go to that Sunday school or quit going to the Presbyterian school; either course would be quite satisfactory to the ruling power. Now we assume that all boys who will help support that gym may use it (that is agreed now between the TWO powers that be) and go to any Sunday school they may care to go to. We do not need another gym in this town. We do need cooperation, and then vigorous use of what the town already possesses. E pluribus unum!

I hope Doctor Young and I may not need to scrap any more over native matters. He finally took my advice in everything pertaining to this work, and if he shall continue to show the same good judgement all will be lovely. Quod erat demonstrandum! The dear man now knows and admits that his original plan, in his pocket when he arrived in Alaska last spring, would have wrecked everything if it had been put in line of enforcement at this present time. His chagrin and unutterable disgust, over decadent conditions among native people here, and his amazement at deflated financial conditions, will be found reflected mildly in his earliest report, in your hands now for some months. I made bold to tell the dear man that he had come to deal with Alaska as he had first known it and as he was dreaming it still to be - and was seeing Alaska as it IS. Cordially.

Robert Young Diven

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

DEC 9 - 1921

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 29, 1921

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

Very recently I sent you some communications bearing of comity matters at Skagway. Since mailing that letter I have received the enclosed from the Rev. L.H. Pedersen, who was the supply at Skagway both during the last years of the Methodist regime and also under the reorganized Presbyterian Church. It throws some interesting side lights on the situation. Skagway should remain under Presbyterian control.

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

DEC 28, 1921 *Rec'd 12/28/21*

Wrangell, Alaska, Dec. 17, 1921.

Rev. John Dixon
Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Doctor:-

Doctor Young and I had a laugh over your report on Brother Marple's protest touching the twice mentioning my name in the Home Mission Report. I had not read the report till your letter came. I am sorry Brother Marple let his colossal vanity again trick him into exposure. It is the same vanity that impelled him to represent his Fairbanks church as being able to do more after his departure than while he was with the people. He did a fine work in Fairbanks, but to say that that church and the community generally were in better condition financially at the coming of Mr. Scherer was absurd in a serious degree. I was on the field for nearly a year after Mr. Marple had gone away, and I also attended the congregational meeting before going out to Presbytery at Cordova. I conveyed the church's wishes just as they had expressed those wishes. That hurt the dear man's vanity very much, for it was a complete refutation of his glowing representations to the Board while he was in New York, so Doctor Young has told me. I hope that next year Doctor Young will not mention me at all and devote a whole page to Brother Marple, if such course will comfort him. Doctor Young did go pretty strong on the figures he quoted as the dead after the flu. We had five hundred cases in Nenana district and eighty-one deaths. Fairbanks had more cases but only a few deaths. Their form of flu was much milder, and they had several doctors. We had one. Requiescat in pace!

Here is a bit of real business, please. Our Wrangell Aid Society has done great things in furnishing this new manse. They now owe but a hundred dollars on the things purchased, and I am the one they owe. They are welcome to continue to owe me till next spring, when they expect to pay me the hundred, and perhaps buy the few things we own personally, things which should belong to the house and fit in nicely. They have expended five hundred dollars in furnishings, freight included. This has been an IMMENSE undertaking for these folks in these hard times. Won't you please write them a nice letter, just the kind of appreciation you are so competent to express? It will do them a lot of good, and if you send it in my care I will see that it is read before the biggest congregation I can scare up. I hope I may be permitted to live in this house for at least five years.

Wishing you every joy of the Christmas season, I remain,

Very truly,

Robert Joseph Dixon

83 1921
1/10/22
(COPY)

Wrangell, Alaska, Dec. 17, 1921.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Doctor:-

Doctor Young and I had a laugh over your report on Brother Marple's protest touching the twice mentioning my name in the Home Mission Report. I had not read the report till your letter came. I am sorry Brother Marple let his colossal vanity again trick him into exposure. It is the same vanity that impelled him to represent his Fairbanks church as being able to do more after his departure than while he was with the people. He did a fine work in Fairbanks, but to say that that church and the community generally were in better condition financially at the coming of Mr. Scherer was absurd in a serious degree. I was on the field for nearly a year after Mr. Marple had gone away, and I also attended the congregational meeting before going out to Presbytery at Cordova. I conveyed the church's wishes just as they had expressed those wishes. That hurt the dear man's vanity very much, for it was a complete refutation of his glowing representations to the Board while he was in New York, so Doctor Young has told me. I hope that next year Doctor Young will not mention me at all and devote a whole page to Brother Marple, if such course will comfort him. Doctor Young did go pretty strong on the figures he quoted as the dead after the flu. We had five hundred cases in Nenana district and eightyone deaths. Fairbanks had more cases but only a few deaths. Their form of flu was much milder and they had several doctors. We had one. Requiescat in pace!

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Wishing you every joy of the Christmas season, I remain,

Very truly,

(Signed) Robert Joseph Diven.

28 1011
Letter of Dr. Dixon to General Missionary
(from Dr. Patterson)
Wrangell, Alaska, Dec. 19, 1921.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Doctor Dixon:-

I am very sorry to bother you, but I am under the impression that you are the proper man to present the following matter to: 1st. You know we built a manse in Wrangell in the summer and fall just closing. 2nd. We had a joint appropriation of \$3785.75 from the two Boards to build it with. 3rd. It was the General Missionary's conviction that that was insufficient to build a suitable manse at the present day; a ~~fact~~ ^{conviction} which my hardest efforts to secure suitable contract failed to disprove. We could not make a finish job, upstairs, install the water and lay the long sewer etc. etc., for that sum. The sewer and all outside matters had to be left out of the contract entirely, later to be undertaken by the contractor as new or additional work. The General Missionary strongly recommended an additional appropriation, sufficient to cover all this, namely \$400.00. 4th. On October 1st, 1921, the General Missionary wired me from Juneau, as follows: "Dr. Patterson writes Church Election granted two Hundred additional, available at once." 5th. Acting on that advice I went ahead with two of the four upstairs rooms. The sewer work was already done, water installed, sidewalk rebuilt. 6th. Assuming that the two hundred had reached the Juneau Bank long ago, I closed up the contract, making final payment of \$252.00, drawing on the Manse Fund in the Juneau Bank for that amount, of which I deposited by the hand of Doctor Condit the sum of \$16.25, by Money Order. Fearing that the Doctor might have gone to Sitka, or that by some mischance the additional two hundred had not yet reached Juneau, I advised Mr. Behrends of The B.M. Behrends Bank, whom I know very pleasantly, to draw upon me for the two hundred if it had not yet come. 7th. I have just come from the Wrangell Bank, where I met and paid Mr. Behrends' draft in the sum of \$200.00. 8th. I am now out of pocket on the manse the sum of \$216.25. 9th. I would greatly appreciate your securing that elusive, tardy and altogether un-Fresbyterian two hundred and sixteen dollars at an early date and sending the same to me. If the Board feels that I should be

DEC 28 1921 *ack'd 12/28/21*

Dr. Patterson reports that \$400.00 has been sent for Juneau manse

(COPY)

Wrangell, Alaska, Dec. 19, 1921.

Dr. Patterson
Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Doctor Dixon:-

*Final 200 sent 12/14/21
16 25 still due?*

I am very sorry to bother you, but I am under the impression that you are the proper man to present the following matter to: 1st. You know we built a manse at Wrangell in the summer and fall just closing. 2nd. We had a joint appropriation of \$3785.75 from the two Boards to build it with. 3rd. It was the General Missionary's conviction that that was insufficient to build a suitable manse at the present day; a conviction which my hardest efforts to secure suitable contract failed to disprove. We could not make a finish job upstairs, install the water and lay the long sewer, etc., etc., for that sum. The sewer and all outside matters had to be left out of the contract entirely, later to be undertaken by the contractor as new or additional work. The General Missionary strongly recommended an additional appropriation sufficient to cover all this, namely, \$400.00. 4th. On October 1st, 1921, the General Missionary wired me from Juneau as follows: "Dr. Patterson writes Church Election granted two hundred additional, available at once." 5th. Acting on that advice I went ahead with two of the four upstairs rooms. The sewer work was already done, water installed, sidewalk rebuilt. 6th. Assuming that the two hundred had reached the Juneau Bank long ago, I closed up the contract, making final payment of \$252.00, drawing on the Manse Fund in the Juneau Bank for that amount, of which I deposited by the hand of Doctor Condit the sum of \$16.25, by Money Order. Fearing that the Doctor might have gone to Sitka, or that by some mischance the additional two hundred had not yet reached Juneau, I advised Mr. Behrends of The B. M. Behrends Bank, whom I know very pleasantly, to draw upon me for the two hundred if it had not yet come. 7th. I have just come from the Wrangell Bank, where I met and paid Mr. Behrends' draft in the sum of \$200.00. 8th. I am now out of pocket on the manse the sum of \$216.25. 9th. I would greatly appreciate your securing that elusive, tardy and altogether un-Presbyterian two hundred and sixteen dollars at an early date and sending the same to me. If the Board feels that I should be penalized to the extent of the extra \$16.25, I can have no comeback; for I was not authorized to spend anything but the additional two hundred. 10th. I have been assured that Doctor Patterson, whom I have never had the pleasure of meeting, is a very busy man and away from his office a great deal. Such a small matter could be very easily passed by and remain for a long time unnoticed. I am sure it must have happened thus. 11th. If Doctor Patterson has not yet received the pictures I sent him and the plat of Wrangell showing our property, which he should have received last summer before we began to build, I will get another and register it so he will be sure of it this time. He should have one. 12th. We have the nicest manse in Alaska, according to my judgment; a house on which I saved some two hundred dollars by my own labor, labor for which I neither asked nor expected remuneration, favor nor praise. I was up against building a good house with an appropriation made before the war, so I was told. A pre-war appropriation will not yet build so good a house in any part of Alaska as the same sum would have done before the war. I did my prettiest here, for I am sure Wrangell needed it, and I believe Wrangell will prove her appreciation, if given time to think it over in Wrangell fashion. The two up-stairs rooms can be finished for another hundred dollars if the Board should see fit to dig up that amount. Then the house would be finished from top to foundation. I am not ~~going to~~ asking it, if it will be in the least inconvenient for the Board to do it. They are nice rooms as they are now, and we will be happy and contented with the Board's decision —excepting the two hundred dollars already spent. I could not be exuberantly happy if the Board were to say they would not return it. My little earthly all has already gone into Home Missions, and I gladly see myself following it in the same service.

- 2 -

13th - lucky number! I close.

May the joys of the season of God's wonderful gift be yours.

Very truly,

(Signed) Robert Joseph Diven.

P.S. Inclosed are the carbons of my recent letters to Doctor Condit and to Mr. Behrends. The Doctor has the contractor's receipt in duplicate.

Please return the carbons for my file.

*Copy
1/24/22*

R.J.D.

January 12, 1922.

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

My dear Dr. Diven:-

We have learned with great satisfaction and much pleasure that the Wrangell Aid Society has manifested a substantial interest in the furnishing of the new manse. We are sure that with the limited means at their disposal they have accomplished large things and are justly worthy of the warmest appreciation and commendation of the Board of Home Missions.

Will you as soon as you have an opportunity convey the greetings of the officers and members of the Board to the Society and assure them that what they have done is a very strong proof of their interest in the church and their devotion to the great work committed to us all.

With warmest congratulations to you as a pastor upon having such splendid helpers, and wishing for them as well as for yourself the largest and best blessings, I am,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

D. W. Wilson

Wainwright Alaska

Jan 14/1922

to the Board of Home Missions

Dear friends

I write to thank

you, for the check you sent me
it was such a surprise at Christmas
Time. you can not realize the
good it has done. not only for
my own family. but to all the
Christian friends we gave them
little dinner and it was such
a joy full Christmas. I accepted
as a gift from above. What
else could it be. you did not
instruct me to take care of the
work here when Rev Clark left
I saw my duty as a mountain
before me. yet I felt so unworthy
yet with the help and encouragement
from the White Church

I took Courage. I have always
helped Mr Clark for many many
years and it was not hard
to give them Sunday school
lessons as he has done
before. I can sing and play
the organ. I never once thought
I would get paid for my time
and services. My master and
my Lord saw I needed the
money. I did not even ask
him for it. But oh how
wonderful His care & His love
for those that trust in Him.
Thanking you again & again.

I remain faithfully
Yours

Gillie & Paul James

P.S.
We are highly pleased and
appreciate our Pastor Dr. Devine.
With love to all my friends. 9/8/88

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York, N. Y.

Wrangell, Alaska, Aug. 17, 1922.

My dear Doctor Dixon:-

Inclosed ~~XXXXXX~~ is my carbon copy of my latest report to our General Missionary. After having it ready to send to our old friend at Juneau, it seemed to me that you and Mr. Banks might be interested and possibly informed by reading it too. When you have read and digested its contents, please send it back to me for my file. If you have any questions to ask, let them come without hesitation.

Regarding the attached statement and receipted bills, Mr. Banks will recall that he asked me to send them in about the latter part of August. Just what disposition he might be able to make of them he was not able to say at the time of his passing northward. As I then explained to him, so I repeat here. The property was going to ruin through neglect. The people did not feel warranted in taking the initiative lest they be assessed with the bills, which they would be utterly unable to pay. They knew they were not eligible to create bills for the Board to pay. I told the General Missionary that I would have the work done if I could find a way to do it without creating a lot of local bills. This church, and more especially some others in Alaska, has been cursed with the slovenly and unbusinesslike methods of men once in charge. Bills were created for which no definite plans could be formulated to make payment. That cannot occur under my ministry. Such determination is a part of my religion.

Well, the G.M. said to go ahead and do it anyway. It is now done.

Mr.T.C.Havens,to whom I hope you will write a nice letter of appreciation, is the painter and paperhanger who did the work. He is a member of my church. He offered to do the work and wait for his pay till some of the ^{mission} superfluous land in Wrangell is sold. I said I would put up the money for the materials needed,also have all other work not in his line done and pay for it. He was to secure the materials needed in his line at cost,through one of the local stores. That is why such bills bear his name. I made payment and have the checks as my vouchers. This money of mine is money that will be needed by December first,to apply on life insurance. It has been an immense pleasure to put it to work in this way during the summer. It will be another immense pleasure to get it back by the time it is needed. It was the only way in sight to get the old church properly renovated,and it was a disgrace to the denomination as it stood.(Just here may I suggest that you make it a part of the G.M.'s business to see that some lazy prescher doesn't lie down on his job and let his buildings rot beneath his feet and over his head. My predecessor was expecting the crack of doom any minute,though,and maybe he felt that it would not be needed. Here's one church where the pre-Mil. theory did its deadly work in fine shape. Pardon the digression,but you may as well have a taste of what we get as regular diet up here -- sometimes.)

| | | |
|---|----------|----------------|
| Paint used on outside of church - - - - | \$ 57.90 | |
| Carpenter work | 33.00 | |
| Shingling tower | 5.00 | |
| New lumber (much old material was used) | 2.70 | \$98.60 |
| Paper and paint used inside | 87.54 | |
| Repairing seats | 3.00 | |
| Change in lighting | 5.50 | |
| Window shades and fixtures | 22.80 | |
| Heating apparatus | 42.50 | \$161.34 |
| | | \$259.94*Diven |

T.C.Havens,Wrangell,Alaska.Painting outside 72.35

Painting and hanging paper inside 168.00

Cordially and fraternally,

Total

\$240.35*Havens

\$500.29

Havens did not charge full rates for work *Robert Joseph Diven.*

*Copy for Rev. S. Hall Young
Juneau, Alaska*
Wrangell, Alaska, Aug. 17, 1922.

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Doctor:-

We have been expecting some word from Mr. Panks, or from Dr. Hays, or from yourself, but not a word have we heard. The Judge said he had a letter from you but there was nothing in it about our business matters.

What became of Banks? Has Hays gone home? Did he have a good trip to the westward? What sort of trip had you round the missions? What is the outlook for getting something done with the superfluous properties? We had expected to have opportunity to see Panks again, at least to talk over matters a few minutes, but have not seen a sign of him since that night you had him in tow northbound.

A letter from Waggoner, written August ninth, says we must have all "budget items" in the Committee's hands by the first week of September. Does that mean that we are to say now what we will need from the Board next year? That is what his letter seems to say. A representative congregational meeting is an impossibility any time this month. The people are not here, and those who are at home are working night and day in the canneries. I have written him that unless things improve industrially before next spring we will need at least eleven hundred dollars. You set the estimate at least a hundred too low last spring. We voted to do our best to meet it, but four hundred was all we could see any reasonable hope of raising. Our portion is not yet raised in full -- only about half of it. I am

pledged to pay a sixth of the five hundred myself, and have many other items of expense aside from that, that are connected with the church's support; ^{also.} The work goes along with good outlook, but this can never be reckoned a strong church financially till the present young people grow up and begin to earn money for its support. The old set here, aside from the small group now active in church work, will never cut any considerable figure in church support. They have not done it for many years, if they ever did it at all, and they are not only short of funds but without interest in religion as an institution. Give us a chance to raise up a new congregation and a new clientele and this church will take a place it has never held since you started it. It is needed, badly needed, but time, patience and the grace of God alone can bring in the new day in Wrangell.

After October first there will be no payroll of any sort in Wrangell, unless something new starts up. Mill will close; canneries will be shut down; shrimp and crab canneries are already gone. They went last spring. The early fishing season didn't pay more than expenses for most fishermen here. They must earn their money ^{for winter} ~~taxi~~ ~~taxi~~ during the two months of good fishing, now nearing a close. How much do you suppose the natives will have to spare for church support? How much would white folks do under similar conditions?

I think you would better not include the additional hundred dollars for finishing the two upstairs rooms here, in the budget for next year. Let us wait till some of the land is sold, unless it can be included without in any way jeopardizing the more urgent needs of some other field. I built my wood house recently, and it is a real

addition to the property. I was able to make even better use of the old lumber than I had hoped. I saved the Board at least sixty dollars.

The old church is now completed and looks fine. Travelers are much pleased. I feel sure the natives will be pleased when they get back and see what has been done. Very few natives are in town, and those who are here have been working night and day in the canneries since we reopened. We have maintained the regular services for the few who could attend. Hope to have a society for young people this fall, like the C.E. They have never had any such society in town, at least not in the memory of those who are here now.

Pardon the lengthy report, but I thought you should know all these things. I also knew you could answer the questions asked in it.

With cordial greetings from Mrs. Diven, and hoping that you are enjoying your work, I remain,

Faternally,

Arthur Joseph Diven

September 1, 1922.

Rev. Robert Joseph Diven, D. D.,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

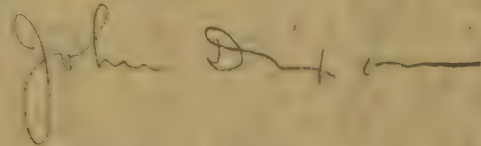
My dear Dr. Diven:

I have received your letter of August 17th with the bills and statement showing that the total amount required to cover the improvements made in Wrangell is \$500.29. You are, of course, aware that there is no money in the budget or in the treasury of the Board available for this sum. I have written to Dr. Young asking for his recommendation as to how this amount is to be paid. I take it for granted that the good man would not have said to you to go ahead without having some plan of taking care of the expense. The moment we hear from him the matter will be at once considered by the Executive Council and report made to you.

Mr. Banks has not yet returned from his Alaskan trip and is not expected here until September 11th. I am counting upon his enthusiasm concerning Alaska to be so great and forceful that everything that he has endorsed will be approved by the Board, especially if he can discover some way by which the expense can be provided.

With heartiest good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,



JD:ES

Nov 18 1922

Wrangell, Alaska, Nov. 1, 1922.

Rev. J. A. Marquis, D.D.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Doctor Marquis:-

Inclosed is a carbon of my letter to the Rev. Mr. Ellis of Kingston. I hope the good brother will not feel hurt by my looking the "gift horse in the mouth." I believe it would be no exaggeration to say that TONS of useless, or almost useless, things have been shipped to the Alaska mission fields in the past thirty years. I helped to commit one of those crimes myself, many years back, when missionaries were timid about saying just what was needed, and felt that the Lord would know what to do with the stuff if it was too tough a proposition for the missionary. Let me thank you for communicating about this matter instead of taking a chance at adding one more article to the obsolete collection of things in Alaskan church closets and woodsheds. An obsolete machine now stands rusting to pieces in one of my church closets. It takes two men to lift it round, there are no pictures on the coast it can use, I've tried to sell it in pieces or as a whole, and can't even give it away, and we need the space.

About December first we hope to send in our Home Mission offering. It won't be much, but maybe it will help some. What with my outlay on repairs, and the salary checks for September and October both not yet received, I had to call on the bank to the tune of one hundred and fifty dollars as a loan on November 1st. I hope, not for my sake alone, by any means, that the Presbyterian church will awake to the needs of your Board and meet them this month. Very cordially,

Robert Joseph Dineen

Rev. Charles G. Ellis,
18 Wurts Street,
Kingston, N. Y.

*Carbon
J.A.M.*
Wrangell, Alaska, Nov. 1, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

Your communication to Doctor Marquis in reference to a Balopticon lantern with Prestolite gas tank is just at hand. I do not know who put in the request for a lantern for my use, but whoever did it must have known there is a need. I am grateful to that person, and sincerely grateful to the Amenia church and to Doctor Kerr of Freedom Plains.

Since we have electric light in Wrangell, it seems to me we should have a machine that operates that way. Also, it will be impossible to get much service out of a machine that is not strictly down-to-date in the slides it is designed to handle. Distances are great, and expense of providing pictures still greater. I had almost given up the idea of asking for a machine at all. Up here we will have to use the pictures that are in use down on the Pacific coast. With comparatively few exceptions, everything in entertainment and educational lines down there is strictly modern. Perhaps that machine is just the very thing I have indicated, so far as our need is concerned. Perhaps, too, it can be easily refitted for operating by electricity. If so, send it on. If not so, let it be placed somewhere in the east, where towns are numerous and close together; where supplies for differing kinds of equipment are readily and inexpensively obtained. I speak thus frankly from a knowledge of both the east and the west, and with a sincere desire to prevent wastage both there and here. I await your judgement.

Fraternally, *Robert Joseph Diven*

Dinner

Wrangell, Alaska, April 14, 1923.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D., LL.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Marquis:-

The accompanying carbon of a letter just now written to Doctor Young will explain itself.

I did not know the Doctor had written to the Beard about the Salvation Army. Perhaps you wonder why I, or any other missionary, should have been consulted before the letter was written. Maybe the accompanying carbon will make that clear. Also the urgent importance of guarding the workers on the fields against such situations as this untoward incident has given rise to. We are urged to speak in frank and understandable terms when writing to officials of the Boards, and that suits the missionary very well; but some woeful blunders have occurred in the handling of some such correspondence, notably as excerpts for use in church periodicals and advertising.

The onus of the Army's invasions has till now rested on the Army itself. My name is not Jeremiah, but things don't look good to either Falconer or myself. How did it happen?

Cordially,

Dinner

April 30, 1923.

Rev. Robert J. Diven,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

My dear Brother:

I thank you very much for your letter in regard to the situation of the Salvation Army. I am enclosing copy of an extract from Dr. Young's letter in which he asked me to take the matter up with the Salvation Army people, which I did. I sent them a copy of what I am enclosing to you now. If Dr. Young is correct in his statements, then certainly some protest ought to be made. I was careful not to say to the Salvation Army people that we believed Dr. Young's charges, but simply submitted them and asked them if they would not investigate and make report. They have done so and I am enclosing also copy of two letters I have received from the Chief Secretary, Mr. F. Morrel, both of which have been forwarded to Dr. Young.

If the facts stated in Dr. Young's letter are not correct I am at a loss to understand how he got wrong shipped on the matter as he is generally very tolerant and sympathetic with anybody who is seeking to build up the Kingdom of God.

Thanking you for your interest and hoping that the situation may clear, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

Given

Wrangell, Alaska, May 14, 1923.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D., LL.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor:-

I thank you for enlightening me on the Salvation Army controversy. It becomes clear that my surmise as to the undiplomatic manner of approach was correct. The Chief Secretary's reply makes it equally clear that he is ignorant of the facts, or deliberately evasive and secretly resentful. That his pre-conceived prejudice in the matter grew to mature proportions is evidenced by the manner of his investigations, namely, forwarding copy of ~~xxxxxx~~ complaint and asking the one complained of to report on his own delinquencies. His reference to the Covenanters, as pertinently suggestive in this case, ^{se}gurely places the Chief Secretary: he is either ignorant of the facts or seeks to cloud judgement with finesse. Though couched in less caustic language, I regard the Chief Secretary's reply as being not a whit less blameworthy than the worst interpretation he could have put upon Doctor Young's disgust-laden accusations. His reference to our Reverend Falconer's marrying one of their officers some years ago, was apropos of what? Comity agreements do not extend to marriages. His reference to the recent banqueting of Staff-Captain Jaynes by Rev. Falconer, has no significance as to approval or disapproval of the course the Staff-Captain is pursuing in his Army endeavors. Falconer is a man who will always turn the other cheek for a second slap; a man who will let a stranger "bite the chew from his plug" instead of cutting it with a knife, as certain old sourdoughs express it. *(Falconer does not use tobacco. No reflection meant by the figure. It belongs up here.)

I do not share Doctor Young's intense aversion to the class of music sometimes used here by the Salvationists. All of it is not bad; indeed, some of it is very good. Some of it, however, is not a whit better in either sentiment or rhythm than several pieces we once used in Sunday Schools and Christian Endeavor work. We had ours. Let them have theirs if they will not be instructed by our experiences.

When it comes to a studied and persistent effort to draw away members of long-time standing in the Presbyterian church, and induct them into the Salvation Army, then I find myself wondering if the Staff-Captain is obeying instructions from Headquarters, or if he is acting on his own initiative. His emissaries have been trying to do that in Wrangell, but with scant success. William Jackson, an elder for many years, was thus inducted into the Army last winter while living in Petersburg. Coming to see me later, to talk the matter over, Mr. Jackson explained the whole matter. By joining the Army, he hoped to be of larger service to the natives who are in the Army and need instruction, natives who do not regularly attend any church services. I told him to stay right in the Army and work as hard as he might; that his membership in the Army need in no way vitiate his membership or eldership in the Presbyterian church. I further explained to him that I myself had often preached in

Salvation Army barracks down in the States, as well as a number of times in Alaska; that I am in hearty accord with the Army's effort to reach a class of people who WILL not attend church; that church people do annually contribute many thousands of dollars in cash and clothing to help the Army accomplish the noble work for which it came into being; that he should be very careful not to let any man poison his mind with the thought that the church is antagonistic to the Army in any way; and that he should encourage thoughtfulness in his native brethren, as touching the church that brought to his people the gospel message and their first opportunities for schooling and fitting themselves for the readjustments the Christian people of the United States saw would be necessary if the native people would continue to sustain themselves in a state of economic independence.

Mr. Jackson understands all the foregoing, and I believe he will stand true to his old church. Mr. William Tamaree, another long-time member of this church, husband of Tillie Paul Tamaree, so well known to the Presbyterian Board and school work, was present in Petersburg during the Salvation Army meetings last winter. He too was urged to join the Army and work there instead of in the church. He took a stand against the proposition, yet maintained his fraternal relations with the Army brethren, just as I would recommend that he should do. He had a warm argument with William Benson, over Benson's urging Presbyterian members to leave the church and join the Army. William Benson was once a layworker at Klawock, assistant to Rev. David Waggoner. Your files will show that he was dismissed from service because of immorality. He began work in the Army immediately on leaving our employ, and, despite feigned fraternal feelings, he has consistently worked to the detriment of the church that gave him his schooling and the big opportunity of his life. But why multiply instances? The men in other places may do that if they ~~so~~ see fit. There is no occasion for a quarrel. We have something better to offer the natives, if we will so regard our work. These sporadic "thusiams," that so distinctively characterize Army work in some localities, need not be feared; the Church's work is not yet done, and the Army cannot by any present methods do it.

Certainly Staff-Captain Jayne ~~and~~ is being treated in a kindly manner by myself. It is a part of my business to seek to do good to all men. I have not dignified the Staff-Captain's attempted encroachments with so much as a word of conference or controversy. When he reported my friendliness for him and his work, I hope he did not intimate to his superior officer that he had conferred with me about it. He, to date, has never mentioned the fact of any complaint having been made. I shall not mention it unless some very radically different situation arises. I deeply regret that any uproar has been raised over his proselyting activities. There is a better way to meet that situation, I believe

Pardon the long epistle, but I feared from one statement in your letter that you thought I regarded Doctor Young's charges as unfounded. No doubt but each detail can be verified in the circuit of the fields. I do regard it as most regrettable that such a presentment of the case should have found its way to the Army Headquarters' files, and that from our beloved Doctor Young, chief "bohunk on our dump." Fraternally,

Given

* An oldtimer once referred to Bishop Rowe as "The chief bohunk on the Episcopal dump." I have frequently applied the same designation to our General Missionaries. It was only another way of saying boss or superintendent in the miner's vernacular.

- : P. S. : -

Since writing the accompanying letter, it has occurred to me that I have no definite knowledge of any comity agreements whatsoever with the Salvation Army. I am not sure that we can have such agreements with them, any more than we might have with the Eddyites. (I would not be understood as regarding them on a parity with Mrs. Eddy's cult, for I do esteem the Salvationists as Christianly orthodox in very many ways, while Eddyism makes the term Christian purely a borrowed factor in its system. I have their books.)

If we cannot enter into comity agreements with a body, why should we appeal for fairer treatment than they seem to be giving us. I strongly believe in the survival of the fittest, not the survival of the "fightin'est." I would also regret to see the present Staff-Captain removed, even were it in our ^{province} ~~power~~ to hint at such a procedure. Personally and very privately, but very sincerely, let me say that I regard the man as sincere in his elephantine way (for he is a corpulent man) but he is too ignorant and clumsy in his administering of affairs to be dangerous, if we ministers will but stick to our own system and not go howling about what he does.

Yes, I know some of the natives will be lured away and led into strange notions religiously. That has happened also in the work of our own ministry in days gone by. I know a number of the men complained with considerable bitterness about the Army methods in their parishes. One man even suggested that he hoped Presbytery would give forth a deliverance declaring the Army not a church and warning the Presbyterian natives to beware of it. If our church were to give the Staff-Captain ten thousand dollars in gold it would not aid his line of effort half so much as such an asinine act as that by a Presbytery. Of course such a thing was never mentioned on floor of Presbytery. The men are not, as a class, so inane as that. I have not yet heard a word from Doctor Young. Perhaps he feels offended at my butting in. But, I am right

here at the storm-centre of the present-day native imbroglios, and when something is planned I'd kinda like be put hep before stray and unlabelled missiles begin to penetrate my zone of peaceful activities. The natives won't say anything to me about Presbyterian offences, such as making rabid attacks on the Army, but they'll do what is infinitely more damaging, they'll discuss it and distort it in their own circles till it becomes heavy with "big truben." I am glad now that I know what was said and done by our General Missionary, and what the Canadian said in reply. We can well afford to ~~to~~ let it all drop just where it is, if our men will wake to their opportunity. One man even gave letters of dismissal from his church to the Army, not knowing, or at least not thinking, that we cannot dismiss to a body like the Army. That was recognition with a real kick to it; recognition that must have been welcome indeed. Maybe I'm the only man up here who knows that young man did such a thoughtless thing. Please say nothing about it. He is a good man for the job he holds and he is growing wiser every day. If the Staff-Captain's clumsy work succeeds ^{thoroughly} in waking up the Presbyterian contingent on this coast, then we should extend him a vote of thanks. We should even rise to make grateful obeisance before our Canadian friend who rushed so menacingly at Doctor Young, a monocle in his face and a swagger-stick in his august hand. Better team work and a larger faith in our mission on this coast will work wonders -- and that is not a criticism of anybody; it is one man's diagnosis of a condition. Doctor Young is doing nobly in reaching out toward such improvement in our state.

Very truly,

Robert Hughes Dixon

JUN 6 1923

Wrangell, Alaska, May 25, 1923.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D., LL.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor:-

A long letter from Doctor Young in re the Salvation Army encroachments, received yesterday, felicitous in every way except that it reveals his determination to continue scalp-hunting in the enemy camp, moves me to write him again.

As I said in a previous communication, I am here in the storm center of every sort of native confusion that hits this coast, and feel that I should know what is going on and should speak my mind without reserve, giving reasons for the position I take in all matters. And I surely appreciate the good Doctor's delightful friendship and manifest confidence; yet we do not always see eye to eye.

When I wrote his letter, but a few minutes ago, it did not occur to me that I should slip in an extra carbon for you; so I am inclosing my own carbon for your perusal. When you have read it, or when you have made a copy of it if you so desire, please return the sheet for my file.

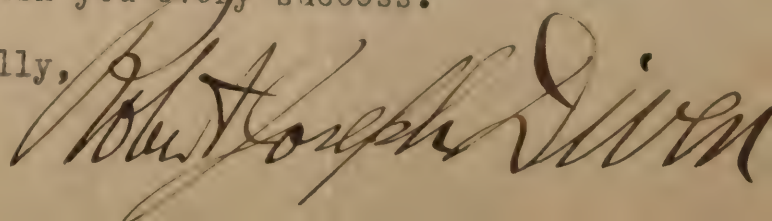
We have reached a time in our Alaskan work when statesmanship of a thoroughgoing Christian type must prevail. I believe it is in the power of our church on this coast to make the Salvation Army a force for good instead of division and strife. I have presented my argument in the accompanying carbon.

But please do not think I am trying to thwart our General Missionary in his equally sincere endeavor to respond to the cries for help from missionaries who have felt themselves hard pressed by the presumptuous Army. I fear some of them forgot the sling and stone story, in their panic and natural craving for armor and a long sword. When the Salvation Army sends better men, a bigger message and a broader service into this field, then the church men should move out. BUT THAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE BY THE ARMY, NOR ANYTHING THAT EVEN REMOTELY SUGGESTS IT. God give us men! God give grace to the men we have; to all of us!

Again I beg your pardon for writing at such great length. By the way, before I forget it again, who is to handle the Alaskan work in the New York office, under the new Board adjustments? Must it be a man who is stranger to Alaska and her sometimes-unique problems?

With great satisfaction I learned today that you are to head the secretarial force in the National Board. You shall have the best support we are able to give, and we wish you every success.

Faternally,



June 8, 1923.

Rev. Robert Joseph Diven, D. D.,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

My dear Dr. Diven:

Your letter in regard to the Salvation Army in Alaska, with copy of the one you sent to Dr. Young on the same subject, is here, and I thank you for it. My judgment agrees with yours as to the proper way to handle the difficult situation which has arisen. I trust it is being straightened out and I believe it will be with the kind of leadership you have given in Wrangell. I am sure Dr. Young will see it in the same light. He is one of God's own children and I have never known a man so free from bias and prejudice in his opinions as he is.

I wish I could go with the excursion this summer to Alaska, or preferably go and stay longer and see more of the work, but the reorganization scheme of the General Assembly will keep my nose to the grindstone here all summer. I hope that some day the grind will let up and that I can have the pleasure of seeing all the brethren in Alaska.

I am returning the carbon copy of your letter to Dr. Young.

Very sincerely yours,

JAMES

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL
TEL. WATKINS 5635

Home Missions Council
and
Council of Women for Home Missions

THE EVANGELICAL DENOMINATIONS THROUGH
THEIR NATIONAL BOARDS AND SOCIETIES
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Warsden
Nov. 21-'23
COUNCIL OF WOMEN
FOR HOME MISSIONS
TEL. WATKINS 4673

December 14, 1923

Dr. John A. Marquis
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Dr. Marquis:

I thank you for sharing with me the information in the documents sent to you from Rev. Edward Marsden of Metlakatla, Alaska. These statements certainly help to understand the statement concerning which the Christian Century should have made further investigation before they printed their brief paragraph early last fall. I am glad that they had the good grace to make the corrections which you suggested to them in your communications to me. They certainly helped to correct a wrong impression in this particular instance.

Cordially yours,

Rodney W. Kinnard
Associate Secretary

ORIGINAL—Send to Treasurer

ALASKA
Wrangell

Report of (name of worker) *Robert Joseph Diven* For Month of *March*, 192*4* At (name of field) *Wrangell*

Type of Work (check which): Organized Church, Unorganized Preaching Point, Neighborhood House, Mission Sunday School.

Synod *Washington* Presbytery *Alaska* County *_____* REPORT FOR ONE CHURCH ONLY ON THIS BLANK

GIVE ATTENDANCE FOR EACH ACTIVITY. (Indicate Sundays by drawing a circle around the date)

| SUNDAY ACTIVITIES | Sex | Age Div. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Total |
|---|-----|----------|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|----|---|-----|----|-------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|----|----|-----|----|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|-------|
| Sunday Morning Service | | | | 25 | | | | | | | 23 | | | | | | | 30 | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | | 27 | 136 | |
| Sunday Afternoon Service | | | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Sunday Night Service | | | | 100 | | | | | | | 65 | | | | | | | 70 | | | | | | | 68 | | | | | | | 75 | 378 | |
| Sunday School | | | | 60 | | | | | | | 61 | | | | | | | 54 | | | | | | | 60 | | | | | | | 55 | 290 | |
| Young People's Society | | | | 14 | | | | | | | 12 | | | | | | | 11 | | | | | | | 9 | | | | | | | 13 | 59 | |
| Week Day Activities (List Separately) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prayer Meeting | | | | | | | 12 | | | | | | | 11 | | | | | | 14 | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | 57 | |
| Aid Society | | | | | | | 16 | | | | | | | 12 | | | | | | 18 | | | | | | | 17 | | | | | | 63 | |
| Choral | | | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | 18 | | | | | | 23 | | | | | | | 16 | | | | 77 | |
| W.B. Morning service is Thlinget, interpreted. Evening service is white. C.E. is combined native + white. S.S. is combined native + white. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Attendance | | | | 199 | | | 28 | | 20 | | 161 | | | 23 | | | 18 | 205 | | 33 | | 23 | | 208 | | | 37 | | 16 | | | | 1060 | |
| Calls | | | | X 3 | | | 1 2 | | 4 | | 5 | | 1 1 7 | | | | 2 3 | | 1 2 | | 4 1 2 | | | | | 3 2 1 6 | | | | | | | 51 | |

PROGRAM

Indicate Sex and Age division for each group, club or activity. M. Men or Boys. W. Women or Girls. MW. Mixed. Kg. 5 or under. P. Primary. Jr. Junior. In. Intermediate. Sr. Senior. Y. P. Young People. Ad. Adults. All. All Ages.

MEMBERS RECEIVED DURING MONTH

On Confession *2*
By Letter *2*

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

Church *29*
Sunday School *81*
Total Number Families *35*

If you are also reporting on other blanks for other points served, name them here:—

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR DIRECTIONS AND GENERAL NARRATIVE

*Carbon for Dr. Marquis.
Private use only.*

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Doctor Young:- The steamer Jefferson has just passed my town, and I feel sick at heart over something Falconer told me about a letter of yours to Doctor Marquis, involving the Salvation Army as it is conducted by Staff-Captain Jaynes.

I do not know what was in your letter to Doctor Marquis. I do know that if it was not designed as a formal protest, to be passed on to Army headquarters, and if it was written in your vigorous style as a communication to Doctor Marquis as Secretary of our Home Board, the worst imaginable thing for our fields has been accomplished. Captain Jaynes will now have visible and incontrovertible proof to lay before haters of the church, to convince them that we are antagonizing the Army. This form of recognition will be more than gratefully received by the Captain, I can readily surmise. He has lacked it and has needed it. Now, we who have gone steadily along, without clash or even seeming to be conscious of distractions from the Army's very uncertain manoeuvres, are forced into the light as antagonists of the Army and as recognizing the Army as a competitor. Both of these seemingly-proven attitudes are wholly false; and, in spite of anything we may say or do to the contrary, they will surely become established as facts in the lay mind.

I am sure it is clear to many of our ministers, that we have absolutely nothing to gain and much to lose through controversy with a man like the Captain. It is exactly the other way round, judged from his angle. Is there no way by which the ominous and hateful thing can be consigned to the limbo of Orthodoxy's sheol? The Army is doing me no real hurt. Sooner or later, through patient continuance in well-doing by our missionaries, it is going to dawn on the native mind, that anybody who will seek to creep in and draw away followers from the church that first brought them the message of God's love, must have some less worthy purpose than have the men who represent that church. If this movement be of God, we shall do well to help it along. If it be from any other source, we will not have harmed ourselves in maintaining our poise as ministers set to a specific task.

Now, maybe you think Diven has been giving you Hail Columbia for something you didn't do, or for doing something you had a perfect right to do without consulting anybody anywhere. Now I wish the situation were such that you could smile back at me in your genial way and tell me I am all out of order and to go chase myself! The Captain is going to Juneau on the Queen, which passes here Sunday morning, and he will come back on the Alameda. I do not know what he is going for. He has not said a word to me, but when I met him in the street to-day, he had somewhat the air of a horse that has been eating gunpowder. Requiescat in pace!

With love that knows no measure, I remain.

Robert Diven

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, Jan. 13th 1930.

Dr. A. J. Montgomery,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Man:

The long inclosure will, I believe, need little explaining. David was in the usual great hurry when here on the night of December 31st, and I did not insist on a complete survey of his expense accounts. That was why the discovery was so late in being made. Blame me, if that seems the proper thing. I believed that David was as earner as I to make things come out right; but he knew, from July 26th, that twelve hundred was the sum allotted to the Princeton this year. He did not revise his balance after that date, and I should have discovered the oversight. He has not yet admitted the \$113.30 as a charge against the maintenance of the boat. I think this letter will bring things round with a wholesome suddenness, now that the facts are in hand. I should like, if for no other good service, just to handle this detail another year so as to demonstrate to the good man that the same thing cannot occur another year. Expenditure details will be called for on all occasions, after this.

Now, if you can get the hundred additional on this year, making thirteen hundred, then if need be let us draw a hundred from next year's allotment as soon as it is available, we should get through. One reason I have been slack about checking up as closely as I might have done was to wait till nearer the end of the year, never dreaming we were now out of funds, and then head off that neat turn he gave us the last time -- requisitioning to a cent the balance allocated to the boat. It seemed that it was all right. Later events have raised a doubt in my dull brain. I know he is stubbornly against returning to the treasury a cent that we once get hold of for use up here. In most instances that is right, for sometimes work is not completed at the close of the year and to return funds needed to defray bills already incurred would be poor business as well as most unhandy; but the boat is a different matter and handled in an entirely different way from a building or survey matter. Do you see the source and character of possible and probable perplexity? Well, that's that!

Now, as soon as David gets my letter, there will be some sort of reaction. The one to look out for will be a telegram asking the endorsement of new supplies purchased. No new supplies are needed now, or at least none I have been told anything about. David will force that allotment above the thirteen hundred if he can devise a way to do it -- and this is said in no mean spirit; he will feel he is doing just the capital thing. We do not agree on that. Thirteen hundred should be enough to operate that boat a year. If some of his expense this year went for repairs, that should be returned to the allotment. May great grace, patience, and much money be yours now, henceforth, and forever more. If nothing better can be done, get that evangelistic hundred set over toward maintenance and let David use my seventy, which he now has and is perhaps consuming. He agreed to my demand that at least one honest-to-goodness collection be taken wherever they conduct meetings. You shall be kept posted..... Very truly,

1930
Diven

Wrangell, Alaska, January 13, 1930.

Rev. David Waggoner,
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Waggoner:

Not having heard a sound from your locality since you left my door late on the evening of December thirty-first, but trusting that you are now in the midst of most helpful evangelistic meetings at Angoon, I am addressing this note to your home box. No doubt you have left instructions there as to where to send your mail. While the contents of this note may be somewhat startling to you, I assure you they were not less so to me; however, the situation is one that I believe can be met. With that fond hope I shall do my best:

A note from headquarters apprises me of the fact that we have almost exhausted our Princeton Maintenance allotment - all but \$11.39. Taking the records and checking up, a thing I had not done till this morning, but a thing which we should have done together the evening you were here, December 31st, I find that the Board's figures are correct, except that their reckoning allows us five cents more than the above sum. The discrepancy is easily accounted for: the allotment was \$1200.00 instead of \$1300.00. This fact was disclosed as we reviewed the Pocket Chart on July 26, as you passed through here on your way home from Seattle. Then you overlooked the \$113.30 charged against maintenance while you were in Seattle, no record of which has come to my hand except by way of the recent communication from headquarters. On July 19, 1929, Mr. Gene C. Gould drew a sight draft on Mr. Banks in the amount of \$4113.30, and in his accompanying letter said: "Mr. Waggoner advised me this draft (\$4113.30) should be allocated \$4000.00 to the boat Princeton (for a new engine) and \$113.30 to maintenance. He advised further that he will have the bills for coal, groceries and expense of himself and son in Seattle ready for me to pay this afternoon and they will be charged out of the regular budget for Princeton Maintenance."


So taking away that \$113.30, and making the initial allotment \$1200.00 instead of \$1300.00, the latter figure being the one I see on your first voucher record, we have the enormous sum of \$11.39 to our credit. Can you make that last till Presbytery in April? Of course I know you cannot, and I am asking relief in at least the sum of one hundred dollars to help get you through till this current year is ended. If that cannot be done, then the only thing is to ask that we be allowed to draw on next year's allotment to ease us out of the present situation. And just here let me ask you how much of the sum already used from this year's allotment was used for REPAIRS? Maybe we might get some easement that way, though I have no assurance of any such thing. You will be able to determine what was not regular maintenance and what really was such. An early reply may help much. In your subtraction on sheet No. -20 you short-changed our account in the sum of \$18.53, fortunately a mistake on the right side of the account. Otherwise it would have left us guilty of an over-draft, and till additional funds are allocated I am sure additional bills will not be paid. I am approaching Uncle Andy most earnestly to intercede

in our behalf, to the extent of at least an additional hundred dollars. If we can get an additional one hundred on this year's allotment, then a hundred from the coming year's allotment, that should get us through. I had hoped we might be able to start on an even keel next spring, and keep abreast of all outlay at all times.

And a detailed report on evangelistic outlay might serve both you and the rest of the Committee to good advantage. If from the funds of the Board any draft is necessary, it will be required, I am sure, in order to get the cash. That sort of report, however, will not entail either labor or loss of time, so I know you will be undisturbed by such request.

Give my love to Mr. Davis as he labors to advance the native religious situation; also remember me kindly to the family. And may great grace and wisdom be given to us all.

Very truly yours,


Robert Joseph Diven.

A copy of this goes to Mr. Beck, so that he may know that he has not been forgotten. And to him, his wife, and to his native people I would send love and good wishes.

R.J.D.

ALSO:

When you write, and may it be soon, be sure to tell me what you discovered, learned, scared up, or otherwise came in contact with in your Ketchikan interview with proponents of the new church movement, both native and white movements. A clear statement of your reaction may serve headquarters very helpfully just now.

R.J.D.

Personal to Dr. Montgomery

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, March 20, 1930.

Dr. A. J. Montgomery,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor:

I got my clothes on again, for the first time since last Friday night. I had been feeling mean for several days but was being treated for a simple cold. Had a funeral in very bad weather Friday afternoon, a meeting of my session at my house till ten p.m. that evening, after dining the men and their wives at supper. By the time my meeting was over I had a high fever, though the meeting was a most happy and prosperous one. In the morning, Saturday, I was flat; a clear case of influenza. I am better, of course, or I would not be at the typewriter, attempting the first real letter since I was taken ill. Even the session meeting has not yet been touched; but I will get the Presbytery reports off to Waggoner by Saturday of this week.

YOUR personal letter of March 13 is before me, and to it I shall reply, even if all others have to wait. First, I have heard not a word from Marple since the note he sent me at Assembly asking an audience at Hotel Frye as I passed through on my way home. I notified him of the time I would arrive at The Frye, but he neither appeared nor sent any communication. Indirectly I heard from him, -- the way one always gets fullest information about what he wants, and intends, and is actually doing, as it seems to me -- at the time Juneau whites were trying to get a minister. He wrote all the elders, so Whittier said, and the Whittier letter was a good one. In it he asked Whittier to see if he could not quietly put over the calling of himself to the pastorate of that church. Whittier wrote him that he thought they should have a younger man, and sent the Marple letter to me. Whittier always rather liked Marple, but that method of trying to compass a matter that Marple knew, and Whittier knows, would have been bad for the Presbyterian work in Alaska, settled brother Marple's status so far as Whittier was concerned. Whittier voluntarily sent that letter to me. I should be happy enough not to have any communications with the gentleman, unless in some clear manner to help him; for I have tried harder to help Marple than any other living man, and I have had more trouble out of him than all other humans combined; he seems always circuitous and secretive in his methods of dealing with both friends and foes; he seems vindictive when thwarted in his schemes; and nobody ever seems able to understand just what the big idea is when he is at work up here. That he is determined to return to Alaska, whether headquarters approves or not, and that his return would be but the opening of a campaign of scheming to square all real or imaginary earlier defeats, with both Board and the men now in Alaska, is exactly what I should expect of him. I never replied to that crazy letter he sent me, -- which you read a year ago -- nor do I intend to do so. It is perfectly clear that his desire to see me as I came home was to enlist my aid in trying to get him called to the Juneau white church, but my return was a few weeks too late to suit his haste, for it was then he wrote the letters to the Juneau elders. I am inclined to think that you good people back there would act wisely were you to take Condit's judgement on Marple. Condit asked to have him brought to Sitka, and Condit asked, plead, worked to get him away

again. I was a bit uneasy about bringing him, but Condit wanted him, and I knew Marple had a line of palaver that would make a hit with the natives and might be turned to excellent account. It made the hit, good and plenty! I do not know who he is wanting to get ordained by his usual circuitous methods and without benefit of clergy, -- may Kipling forgive the absence of capitals! -- but, dollars to doughnuts, it is with a view to getting one more desired vote for some planned or hoped-for show-down in Marple's own interests, in the matter of his return to Alaska. His purring way of showing his warmth of feeling and brotherly interest in natives just suits the natives to a dot, and they are likely to desert oldest friends to follow such a man if they think he can get them more of something they want, in either honors or emoluments. He had a great bunch of them going strong before he left, and there must still be some link connecting them and him, for they remember his genial ways and great interest in them, but none speak in any detail of what is in their minds -- Indian methods, on both sides. You might do us a great service by informing us who the Indian is he wants elevated to the ministry. They all want to be, but they do not want to get the education first. Talking is the longest suit these Indians have, and preaching is just talking -- except that it draws a salary, which is a very desirable difference. Rest assured that Marple will never write to me about anything that has a crooked place in it, for he knows that unless it is patently a valid thing to have accomplished by the Presbytery, I would advise against it; and he suspects every other man, apparently, of stooping to the same methods he so often resorts to to "put over" (his favorite expression) the thing he seeks to accomplish by at least partially concealed methods. If he is such a whale of a man, why does not some one of those vacant churches in Seattle ~~mm~~ or other cities in the States pick him up? I had hoped he would take root down there and be happy. I even tried to help him get in touch with vacancies down there, but I never heard anything from it, not even a word of thanks from him for trying to do what he had asked me to do - write a recommendation to a States church. "Toujours en vendette" was -- if my French has not gone too bad -- a slogan of Frederick the Great. It meant then, "Always on the watch!" and it seems that Marple designs to make it a valuable saying for headquarters as well as every man now working in white work in Alaska, distasteful as the thought surely is to every one of us. "Requiescat in pace! Sic semper tyrannus! Hic, haec, hoc!"

As to William Paul's attitudes: Having been let out of politics, through his own offensively aggressive methods before the general public, William, as Waggoner said a few weeks ago, feels an urge toward cleaning up the mission work and giving it a shape that will correspond with his schemes and ambitions. If there is any one of the older white workers who thinks William will not work to remove every man who either has declined, or will refuse, to do his bidding, in the future, such man needs to be removed for sheer brain invalidism; and William is in a position to just about force Sheldon Jackson School into the pattern he selects, or kill it dead as a pickled mackerel. Waggoner says it is not so bad as that; but I shall let that stand as my estimate till I have better reason to change the opinion. And the ambush from which all his attacks will be launched will be marked by the urbanity of a devotee and prince. Nor am I saying that he will not be sincerely earnest in whatever he may do in such connection. William seems to feel that he knows so much better than any white man, covering all the wide range from Herbert Hoover down to the poor ignoramus who is writing this letter, just what should and must be done in Alaska in its every department that he resents interference from anybody. If he is returned

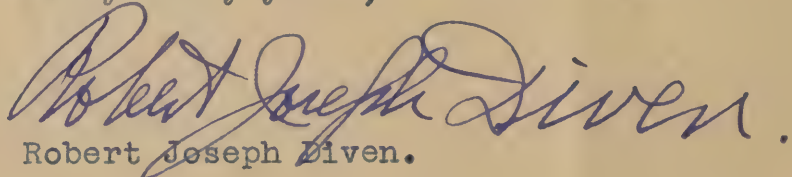
to the Territorial legislature by election next fall, that may in a measure appease him.

As to the Government school to be built five miles down the bay: It will be about two years before it is operating, unless Washington speeds up a bit over all previous records in such matters. It is my intention to see that a man is placed here who will find pleasure in going down there, as there will be a road opened clear to the school site. It may be, indeed, that a school pastor will be the best thing, if such contact is permitted. A man living five miles away, with white parish, native parish, community connections of a dozen different types drawing on him for attention, would find it some task to meet the real needs. William may not be far wrong there, nor is the idea original with him. I do not know whether Waggoner ever spoke of it to any of the natives, but we talked of it ourselves in my study, a whole year ago. If that becomes a part of the Wrangell pastor's job, some other man would, of necessity, have to take my place. I would not undertake so much driving and so much fussing around with the young Indians. It is while in contact with them that I nearly always get my colds that lay me flat for a few days. It was just that sort of exposure that brought me my present assault, caught from an Indian that required my presence and help. And just here may I suggest that if you see some quiet spot, where a man like me could do no special harm and might be actively useful a year hence, in Florida, just remember me. By that time these younger men should be in the harness in Committee work. The Dr. says I am in no tubercular state of any sort, and that if I get out into an entire change of climate for a year or two I will be tough as my race is noted for being. If I could be put out to interest the people in Alaskan needs, I might do some good for a year and still have a long summer vacation. And maybe the pictures I ~~wxxx~~ have are not what you would want me to show; and I purpose getting a lot more. The present ones are not first-class, and are largely outdoor views. This is only a "something" for you to think about.

I am not yet sure that Mrs. Tamaree will remain at Petersburg another year. She has been resigning each spring and always glad to go back. I anticipate such action again, for with her pension she is on easy street. If she could get paid over here she would, no doubt, come -- which would be no real aid to the work here. She and William got too badly tangled up with a lot of natives, over property matters, after old Julia died. When she is here some people come to church who do not come at other times (one or two), and five or six who attend, as a regular thing, are usually absent. Indians again, just spoiled Indians. She wants to go to Assembly, and will surely demand ordination if the proposed amendment carries. Wanamaker embarrassed us very much last fall, by going in cahoots with another Indian and sending in an arraignment of the Mrs. schoolteacher at Klawock. The Department looked up the ground for such complaint, found none, and the lady made Andrew and the other Indian sign a statement which says they lied when they sent that complaint in against her. Sending complaints is one of the Indianiest sorts of exercise along this coast, and in not a single case that we have looked up have we found situations as stated in the complaints; sometimes they were mere reflections of some third party who wanted to take a great fall out of the one complained against. After I got my Sitka Indians all chartered by families and totems, I had easy sailing in dealing with most of their big-scare stories. After hearing their tales and looking properly serious about them, I usually told each party to the confab what totem he belonged to. Loud protests always arose,

but I had the floor and always continued till I had finished. One man ~~very~~ rudely rose and swaggered out of the room;but I sent the interpreter after him and told him he would either return and politely hear me through or do it under the eye of the U.S.COMMISSIONER. He was up to real mischief and I knew it,and would surely have turned him over if he had not yielded to entreaty and agreed to quit trying to rob the ones who were so distressed by his actions. ~~Tajouxxxxx~~ ~~xandakka~~ Toujours en vendette can't be improved on as a motto to hang above your desk when you encounter Indian complaints from Alaska. We spoiled them,and now we simply have to watch them. Two years ago I became convinced that William meant to get Condit out of S.J.S.,if he didn't leave voluntarily;but the Doctor has been very fair and good to William and his plans. How did I get my conviction? By William's mother;though she,of course,was too good an Indian to even intimate that Will had any such ideas. And the same thing will occur at Haines. Let us set the Indians forward in every possible way;but while doing it,"Quicunqui vult servari",as Athenasius said in his creed,let ~~him~~ us remember that they have a leadership of their own blood that is literally Quaerens quem devoret. "Whosoever desires to be safe," let him remember that the Indians have a leadership that is "Seeking whom it may devour" -- if I run not astray. And pardon the messing up of those stray attempts at quotation,and the translation. I know how volubly I swear when I am reading a book and encounter some dunce's Latin,or French,or German and cannot translate it at a glance. If I hadn't been down sick as an idiot I'd never have rung in the above on you. But it does me good to gabble a bit after getting that other stuff, really serious stuff,off my chest. And if you want to read this to Dr.McDowell,all good and right with me. The more detail your pictures have,the more surely will you understand both the country and us who are doing our fool best to work in it. And thanks for your letter.We will say nothing.But,please,keep us posted along all lines.

Very truly yours,


Robert Joseph Diven.

Wrangell, Alaska, March 31, 1930.
T E N P. M.

Rev. David Waggoner,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Waggoner:


I am having to revise my plans at the last minute. Less than an hour ago my wife admitted that she is ill. She has been on the couch all day, and I have been fearing an attack of influenza, just like I am barely recovered from. The physician will be called in the morning and he will take her in hand, for we do not want a repetition of last spring's experience. She successfully nursed me through a really hard attack, and every precaution has been taken to safeguard her. We were feeling happy over the outlook, till today, though she was unwilling to admit her illness till late this evening. Of course this means that I cannot get to Presbytery, unless such improvement should be made by Mrs. Diven as will permit me to go down on the Northwestern on Wednesday. But that, I feel sure, is not to be expected. It is up to me to stay and take care of this good lady. Cable office is closed or I would have tried to catch you at Petersburg and save the run up here.

As to Committee business: The latest word from Dr. Montgomery expressed fear that they would not cross the line clear of a deficit this spring, yet he was hopeful. If they do, we will have perhaps six hundred additional to spend. Four hundred should go to bring Sam Davis's salary up to standard, and two hundred should be added to Skagway's allotment, to enable them to break even and keep their man on a barely livable wage. We do not want to lose Pederson from this Presbytery. All other wages will remain unchanged; also boat maintenance, Princeton to have thirteen hundred this year. It may be that a letter, stating what may finally be done, will come on the Alaska tonight. If so, I shall get it to you on the Northwestern, or communicate by wire anything in it that may be vital to the Committee's work. All desired repairs that were reported are already listed with Dr. Montgomery. I am sure the Ketchikan native church's appeal for assistance in getting a new building will take precedence over any other appeal for a church this year, in this Presbytery. Dr. Montgomery said so, some time ago. The only thing I can recommend that the Committee do is to have Presbytery approve the recommendation that work be continued on its present basis, the above two items of change being purely Committee business and not matters for Presbytery to vote, or take any action, on. It is on the Committee's united recommendation the Board acts in such matters. And, as was said a year ago, the Committee can neither increase or decrease salaries without first convincing the Board that such action, in either premise, is wise. In a Presbytery like ours, the Board is the big partner, being charged with the wise administration of the funds committed to the Board by the church at large. The Board has surely honored our Committee for years, by its hearty endorsement of what our Committee has advised be done. Only the clear and detailed presentation of conditions and needs saved us from disastrous cuts in the past few years, as you very well know. Similar steady lines of procedure will, I believe, keep everything going ahead as fast as ever, and on an even keel. The brethren may deem it wise to have a change in Committee membership from now onward, this being the year for re-election of the N.M. Committee, either the same or a new personnel.

If it is ordered to my lot to prepare the annual report, which ~~xx~~ has always seemed to me an impossible thing to be accomplished before conference with the brethren at Presbytery and with the other members of the Committee, please use the inclosed sheets in recording details to be specially noted. I have set a name at the head of each sheet. This is the way I have done before, and it gives space and avoids danger of missing something where notes are crowded into less space. I cannot tell you how this failure to be with you brethren at Ketchikan hurts me, just where I live. But you can go through in fine shape, I am sure, and everything is taken care of for another year, on the same basis as last (the year just closing), and will be so sustained at headquarters, unless something spectacular is initiated by the Presbytery. You know it has been expected of us that we present, long before Presbytery, what we MUST have in order not to defeat going work; also to ask for the advances we see as necessary for future progress. That has been done, even to asking for a minister for Craig, to serve there and to have directive oversight of the two great Indian charges below and above. Also the advisability of providing a new church at Juneau, instead of spending more money on the old one. Also the helper at Sitka, for at least six months. The purchase of a place at Douglas, when such action becomes possible and things take definite shape there. Also Haines church repairs, manse desires and requirements. I should recommend no changes in time of service on any parish this year -- I mean in term of service. It seems to me the length of service meets the several needs quite as well as it can be done under existing conditions. However, you men will know what to do if changes should be recommended. You men have a copy of all terms of service in the different part-time engagements.

And do not let the brethren think that I will feel robbed of either honor or glory if I am not again chosen to serve in this capacity. Really, I think ~~ikxx~~ it would be well for some of the younger men to be hooked up with this sort of grind. I think I have had it quite long enough. There are Pederson, Webster, and Saunders. It might be cruel to thrust the latter into such work at this early date, but the other two have tough hides and good heads. Whoever is selected for this task should not be addicted to profanity, should enjoy lying awake nights to ponder many of the Presbyterial problems, and be ever ready to hit the keys of his typewriter so there may be no delays in responses. I have really enjoyed the work, and thank the brethren for their most kindly and hearty support. Where I have erred, it has been an error of the head and not of the heart. But, to be serious without meaning to be sad, if this ~~dadburnedextwytehyperfluteninfluence~~ gives me another whirl or two, you'll see me at a funeral instead of at Presbytery, and I'll not be doing any talking, either, or making any National Mission reports. Better slip one of these younger fellows into my place. It will help make them wise, if nothing else, and they will handle things just as well as anybody can. No wisdom will perish with me. I believe in our young men. Set them the tasks and let them go to it with all their young vigor. And may grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

Hastily and very truly yours,


Robert Joseph Dixon.

I have said nothing about Sam and Hydaburg. You men look carefully into that and decide what should be done, please.

200
M. J. Diven

Wrangell, Alaska, April 1, 1930.

Rev. David Waggoner,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Waggoner:

The attached sheets will be self-explanatory. I shall be glad to have you go over their contents, together with the entire contents of the letter I handed you this morning, with the white brethren, if you deem it advisable and can get them together where the communications can be read and items freely discussed. Native ears would, perhaps, not get the real significance of the various details, and as far as I can see there is no sort of necessity of having either letter before them for discussion. Administrative matters, from all appearances, and really of necessity, should and will remain for some time in the hands of headquarters, as far as this and other Indian Presbyteries are concerned. The reasons are obvious enough, from past experiences.

Hastily and very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven
Robert Joseph Diven.

If it turns out that you have the new moderator aboard, why cannot you adjourn to meet here for an hour or two? Thus you could arrange to have my session records read and duly signed. No letters were in the mail, from the Board. Swanson's letter is inclosed, and my reply; also the letter to Dr. Montgomery. I saved time by doing it that way, and I trust it will be duly informing, and satisfactory all around. It will do the white brethren no harm to read the letter, and it may do them good in helping to envision conditions that are interesting as well as problematical. May you have the sort of time I am praying that you will have! We are hoping for a light case in Mrs. Diven's experience, this time. I have just been assured that I would have been taking a very big risk had I gone with you, for one lung is not yet free from the soreness that marks a spot from which I once bled quite freely. Only in times of heavy colds or influenza does it make itself known. That bleeding, from lung and nose, saved me during the big influenza highjinks in 1920. It has been very sore this time, but nothing more than that.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, April 1, 1930.
Eleven A.M.

Dr. Andrew J. Montgomery,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Man:

The Princeton has passed on its way to Ketchikan, carrying a fine cargo of Presbyters, and I am not aboard. I was all ready, my heart aglow with expectancy and eagerness for what promises to be a really great meeting, when Mrs. Diven was taken quite ill, at nine, last night. The physician has just been here and he says he can pull her up, he believes, without her having to go the long round that I have just passed through. The inclosed sheets will be self-explanatory. I went to work at ten last night, to set in some sort of order the items that will receive review and adjustment by the Committee, in session at Ketchikan.

In my mail, after the Princeton left on its way south, were several personal communications from friends, but none from the Board, and only this one which is herein copied in full. This, I regard as a communication of great importance. It is from Verne J. Swanson, the young man who has in a marked degree the qualifications Mr. Waggoner and I have regarded as essential in any man who is taken aboard the Princeton as a co-worker with the present Captain. And, as you have been told on many previous occasions, such man must soon be secured and inducted into the work, or the Princeton regime will have to come to an end, or be turned into quite different channels of activity. It is my personal opinion that it should be continued as an institution till several lines of activity are set still farther along that they are at present. Read the letter, ponder, and let Mr. Waggoner and me know your reaction as soon as possible. True, I may not be the chairman of this Committee beyond another day; but this is still within my sphere of duty, and I am getting this off on the boat scheduled to go south tomorrow. A copy of this is going south to Mr. Waggoner, at Ketchikan. With Pederson, Webster, Saunders in our present list of younger men we are getting a good start toward rejuvenating the Presbytery. And that is not meant as any reflection on any of us older men; we all know that we must get new and younger men inducted into the Alaskan work if the work is to go ahead. To bring to the work merely old men who are looking for jobs and who cannot be expected to advance with the advancing demands, is to court failure, and to drag out a mean sort of existence while the failure draws ever closer upon the church work in this country, which is not an easy country in which to develop any line of Christian effort. Here is Swanson's letter. The original goes to Waggoner, at Ketchikan.

"San Anselmo, California, March 25, 1930.

"Dear Dr. Diven:

"Have been waiting to hear from the Foreign Board before answering your last letter.

"I was turned down by our own Foreign Board for work in Latin America. Mr. Hadley did not say why. Possibly my age (32) had a good deal to do with it.

"If the opening on the Princeton materializes I would be glad to be considered. Do you have any idea how soon you will know?

"I am to be ordained in the First church, Berkeley, March 30. Commencement day is April 24th, here at the Seminary.

"Do you mind if I ask about the Princeton? What is her length? Is the engine semi- or full-Diesel? Does it carry sleeping accommodations? Is Wrangell its base? What proportion of whites are touched by its ministry? Would it facilitate matters any for me to seek to get pilot's or a power-boat license?

"Hoping that this will find you well, I am

"Yours in His service,

Signed "Verne J. Swanson."

I am answering Mr. Swanson as follows:

"Princeton is a little over fifty feet. Just enough short of certain dimensions that would entail much greater operating costs -- such as a sixty-foot boat would cost, for example, under legal regulations.

"Engine is full Diesel. Good sleeping accommodations for several preachers and pirates; but the boat is not a common carrier and cannot carry passengers. It can carry emergency cases, and such like matters.

"Juneau is its base. A very small proportion of whites ~~are touched~~ is touched by its ministry. Most of our work along this coast, such, especially, as is served by the boat, is Indian work. It was designed to meet that need. The white work does not in any great degree need that line of service, for the white work is not located in the isolated Indian villages. Good service has been rendered, though, by Rev. Mr. Waggoner, to white parishes when those parishes were without pastors or when some business emergencies called for a visit from the Stated Clerk of Presbytery. Rev. Mr. Waggoner is provisional moderator of the sessions of vacant churches. Anything that nobody else can or cares to do is cheerfully handed over to Mr. Waggoner to look after, because he is the only man situated so as to go hither and yon on such errands.

"Yes, a pilot's license would be a good thing to get, at an early date. You would have to have it, if you were taken aboard as a co-worker with Captain Waggoner. It is a mighty good protection to have pasted between your shoulders, under any conditions, up here, whether we get you right away for that work or for some other work. And may your tribe increase!

"No, I cannot say how soon we can give you a definite answer, but a copy of this communication goes to Dr. Andrew J. Montgomery, today. He is our "big push" at headquarters. Also your letter goes forward to Rev. David Waggoner, the Presbyterian pirate several times mentioned above. Regarding this as a crucial and most opportune situation, I am herein urging that definite action be made possible at a very early date. The question of finance is the only question that should in any way stand in our way toward quick and successful action. I hope that Dr. Montgomery will awake next morning after receiving this, and find himself unable to pull himself out of the heaps of bank notes that shall have accumulated around and upon him during the hours of deep and untroubled sleep.

"And concerning both the work and the personnel of our Presbytery, permit me to say a word: We are not such a bad lot, with the single exception of the undersigned. The older men are all young, and the younger men are all growing older at a commendable pace -- fine, up-standing men, every one of them, and no two have quite exactly the same sort of problems to struggle with. That fact is what puzzles and sometimes distresses the uninformed good brethren down in the States who would like to make us all be and do what they think we should be and do. But the men know their lines of work and whittle away regardless

of what the uninformed and uninformable brethren "below" think we should be and do. If I were a young man, like you, for example, and could get into the Alaskan work, I should not hesitate to do so, and stay with it, through thick and thin -- and from experience, I know there is just unlimited quantities of the "thin" to be enjoyed. But Alaska will, someday, come into her own. The men who have faithfully given themselves to the work in past decades have done a noble thing. The men who will carry forward the moral, religious, and educational work to higher degrees of success will do a thing quite as difficult, and equally praiseworthy. The poetry is largely gone from Alaskan work, and much of it was pretty bum poetry; the prose stage has come, and it is the prose of forward-looking, constructive effort you younger men are to write. The pioneers in religious endeavor will soon be vanished from Alaskan scenes; the skilled labor of a younger generation must now come in and build for permanency, wherever pioneer trails have led the way to obviously permanent needs. May you have every joy imaginable in the closing year of your seminary work; and may we have the great pleasure of soon welcoming you and some splendid young woman (What? Yes, your wife) to Alaska to share with us in this interesting and very necessary work.

"Very truly yours,

Signed" (Robert Joseph Diven)".

And so, Dr. Montgomery and Mr. Waggoner, speak your respective minds, and put this through as quickly as possible, if you esteem my judgement as good for anything. Yes, I know that old bogey of money-shortage is ever lurking around mission headquarters. I wish he could be laid by the heels for an eternal nap! I do not see why preachers were not born rich instead of so ~~unpleasant~~ homely! But, they have done a lot, even though poor and homely. And I would have you know that we have no honest-to-really homely ones up here, like they have in New York and Seattle. If we can't have them both, then give us less hair and more brains, with great and loving hearts to guide the brains!

Hastily and very truly yours,


Robert Joseph Diven.

Wrangell, Alaska, May 17, 1930.

Rev. David Waggoner,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Waggoner:

At the first opportunity, -- and please do not let it be later than when you start south in June -- look carefully over that bit of property in Petersburg that Mrs. Tamaree feels so sure should belong to our mission plant there. A communication received from her this morning indicates very clearly that she has gathered from headquarters the idea that all they need back there in order to take action is a recommendation from me that the property be purchased. Dr. Montgomery's letter to Bromley concerning the third delay in building his manse, and his recent statement to me concerning the absolute lack of funds for completing the projects now on their list and many of which have waited long, was my warrant for writing Mrs. Tamaree that nothing definite could be promised at the present time; that the Board cannot appropriate money it does not have; that any seeming delay is not due to lack of interest in that or any other needed improvement or addition. If the Board can be enabled to release some of the Jarvie money, then such projects may be attended to at an early date, perhaps.

Last something is really breaking loose back there without our knowledge of it. I am recommending that an appropriation in the sum of five hundred dollars be authorized, for the purchase of said property in Petersburg, if it be found desirable as has been recommended and stated, and if title is clear so that a warranty deed can be issued when the purchase money is paid. This is, as you will see, purely a precautionary step, based on the assurance Mrs. Tamaree holds to the effect that they are waiting for a recommendation from me before they can do anything. Unless funds have become available in quantity and no notice of such matter has been sent me, I can easily interpret this situation from the Petersburg end - just straight Indian procedure, and "passing the buck." If headquarters were even very feebly to intimate that headquarters must first get a recommendation from me before any action can be taken by headquarters, and if at the same time and in the same breath headquarters should fail to state in plainest and most emphatic terms that headquarters has no money with which to purchase such property now, you know the Indian well enough to know that either Mr. or Mrs. Indian's only conclusion would be that your chairman is holding up the purchase, either through neglect or unwillingness to act. Pray that the day may come, and that right soon, when headquarters will learn to be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove in sending communications to Indians up here. I am not complaining about playing the part of the proverbial goat, but I desire that no handicaps be placed upon either goat in such crossing of trails. Look carefully over that property and make early report, please, even if you have to lose a day in getting south. If the Indians once get well started to putting things up to headquarters, and headquarters refers them back to our Committee with any least semblance of their being ready to act and that they are only waiting

to hear the Pope's pistol crack, then the day is not far distant when the Pope will have to be supplied with a secretary, and Uncle Andy will need a steam-shovel in his office to keep him from being buried too deep for resurrection, even at the sound of the gong that calls Board members to Noontide devotions. In the language of Horace, "Rebus sic stantibus," such being the state of things, I close this encyclical.

Your most humble and obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Joseph Diven". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Robert Joseph Diven.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, May 17, 1930.

MAY 26 1930

Rev. Andrew J. Montgomery, D.D.,
156 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

A little thing has transpired that clearly indicates that Mrs. Tamaree believes headquarters is ready to act in purchasing the additional property in Petersburg, and is waiting only upon my recommendation that such action be taken. Assuring myself that such assurance could have come to her only after additional funds have been made available since your letter to me under date of May 3, 1930, I am herein recommending that an appropriation in the sum of five hundred dollars be made, for the purchase of the piece of ground and cabin adjacent to our present mission plant in Petersburg, provided that its purchase be found desirable as has been recommended and stated by those who have already seen and inspected said property, and provided, also, that title be clear so that a warranty deed can be given the Board when purchase money is paid.

From Headquarters

In the event that Mrs. Tamaree's assurance is not properly founded (which I think is most probable) and the Board has not yet come into funds for such advance purchases, please advise her to that effect. I am showing her your letter of May third, referred to above, with carbon attached of your letter to Mr. Bromley concerning enforced delay in building his manse; also I am assuring her that to date I have no knowledge of any improvement in the announced state of the treasury; also that I am now recommending that an appropriation be authorized in the sum of five hundred dollars for the purchase of the desired property, provided that after inspection it is found as desirable as has been represented, with clear title so that a warranty deed can be given the Board when purchase money is paid, and that no promises can be made by anybody to take the property till we are informed that the money is available to purchase same. Even a hint of a promise that they shall have what they are seeking is often quickly expanded, in the native mind, to a full-fledged assurance that they are to have it; then when the tedious delays come, they become dissatisfied, instantly suspicious of all who have to handle the business, and at headquarters letters of dissatisfaction and complaint are likely to begin to drop in showers -- to the confusion of headquarters and the chagrin of workers on the fields.

I am sorry to trouble you with what may seem inconsequential in its nature and substance, but our Presbytery has been more free from the oldtime cross-fire correspondence from dissatisfied parishioners ~~xxxx~~ since you came into the office than in any similar period of which I have any knowledge. May it long continue thus. We desire to advance the seamliness and comfort of our native workers as rapidly as possible, of course; but it looks a little odd that the property which was purchased two years ago and was then so satisfactory and comfortable to the present occupant should so soon become inadequate and unsatisfactory. I am asking Mr. Waggoner to look the whole matter over very carefully at an early date, and I shall hope

Dr. A. J. M. S.

to see him shot at two o'clock in the morning of the day when he neglects to do as he is now being urged to do. Sunrise is the customary time for executing ordinary criminals, but in this case such neglect of instructions would be no ordinary crime; besides that, the hour named above is his favorite hour for passing out (of port), regardless of what direction he may be purposing to take. Members of the Committee will all understand this, and you, as contact man, should be put wise, too: You know that this is a joint administration, though we stoutly repudiate the idea or intimation that we are running any joints.

Hastily and very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven.

Pope Unpious Twenty-third.
Encyclical the 24,986th.

May 28, 1930

Mrs. Tillie Paul Tamarac
Petersburg, Alaska.

My dear Mrs. Tamarac:

A letter has just been received from Dr. Diven, the Chairman of the Committee, in which he recommends that an appropriation be authorized in the sum of \$500. for the purpose of purchasing the property in Petersburg, provided that after inspection it is found as desirable as has been represented, with clear title so that a warranty deed can be given to the Board when purchase is made, and that no promises can be made by anybody to take the property until the money is made available to purchase the same.

This is simply the first stage of the process. After this survey of the property has been made and recommendations have come to us, then it will have to be presented to the committee that handles such matters and a recommendation secured from it before it can be presented to the Board. It is only fair to you, however, to assure you that even after all of these steps have been taken there is practically no probability that the Board will have the money with which to purchase the property you have recommended during the current year. You know, probably, that our Board has had to reduce its budget by a million and a half dollars in the last six years, owing to the fact that the churches have not sent in the amount of money which used to come to us. During this current year we had only \$20,000. for new property. This is to cover the needs of the Board from Point Barrow, Alaska, to Porto Rico. This amount has been already spent for the current year and we could easily have used five times as much. We have promised a manse at Haines for the last three years. Mr. Bromley has waited patiently, but his manse has not been built yet. The old building is not suitable, as you probably know. If and when the survey made is satisfactory, and if the committee at headquarters approves of the expenditure, then the application will go to the Board, but nothing can be done for at least a year. I think it is only fair that you should understand this.

I know your heroic spirit, your self-sacrificing ability, and I am sure that somehow you will endeavor to carry on until the time comes that the Board has the means with which to secure the piece of property which you are recommending. In the meantime it would be well not to discuss the matter with the owner of the property who might come to the conclusion that it was very valuable and put the price up to a point where it could not be purchased.

With kind regards and my best wishes for your continued success in the work, I am,

Yours very cordially

A. J. Montgomery, Director
Town and Country Department

AJM/VP

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, June 6, 1930.

Dr. Andrew J. Montgomery,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

In our conference last night, Mr. Waggoner and I discussed the following matters, some of which are for information, some for contemplation, and some for action in the near future:

- 1). David brought the information that Rev. Orson A. Stillman passed to his eternal rest early in May. I have advised the Pension Board of this fact, and am urging that they see that there is no delay or lapse in the forwarding of the widow's portion to Mrs. Stillman. Prof. A. B. Stillman, at University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, will be able to furnish the data we lack for any Presbyterial action that may be required. As chairman of the Committee my communication to the Pension Board should suffice to keep everything in orderly form till the required adjustments and advices are all in hand in Philadelphia.
- 2). Your chairman's mind has been mightily relieved by receipt of Dr. Montgomery's letters saying that the Princeton appropriations for repairs and replacements in the sum of \$448.59 have been granted, and that according to my recommendation drafts covering this sum are being drawn in favor of Rev. David Waggoner and forwarded to Eugene C. Gould, Room 1204, American Bank Building, Seattle, where Mr. Waggoner will connect with them on his arrival in Seattle with the boat. Mr. Waggoner will leave Ketchikan on the 19th of June (presumably at two o'clock in the morning), will arrive in Seattle June 23rd, and may be addressed as above, in care of Mr. Gould.
- 3). Mr. Beck has been apprised of the grant of fifty dollars, given by his church in Philadelphia for his farm work, but he has not yet seen the fifty and would like to see it as soon as possible, for it is to him exactly like the proverbial bird in the hand.
- 4). Mrs. Tamaree will remain in Petersburg till March 31, 1931.
- 5). In our judgement, Ketchikan church should be asked to put up a substantial sum toward the support of their minister when they get the new one they are asking for. It was put up to Mr. Waggoner to suggest this to the officers there, and in doing so to remind them that they are not only asking for a new minister, but also a new church, and that with the change they are asking there, there will come upon the Board the heavy expense of providing a manse or putting up more rent money than has been paid to Mr. Falconer. Also he is to remind them of what the chairman wrote to Mr. William Paul concerning the removal of the present man and the securing of a new one - that no hasty action that might be either prejudicial or harmful to Mr. Falconer will be considered by the Committee. (Speak up, you other Committeemen, as to your approval or disapproval, please.)
- 5). When the Juneau Indian church was sold some years ago, under Dr. Condit's administration as G.M., the sum of ten thousand (ten "grand") was received. An additional two "grand" was received from sale of a

a lot there, now being used by the Federal building. About six thousand was used at the time, in providing the two mission manses in Juneau. Now, as a matter of fact, if the Board could make some sort of shift so as to make that original ten "grand" available for a new church for the natives in Juneau, we believe we can get that Indian congregation properly housed in a new building on the solid earth, instead of continuing their religious work in a centipede structure on the beach. Perhaps a tidy little sum could be realized from sale of the present dissolving structure on the beach. It is certain that a very tidy sum will be required to restore the decrepit centipede, and that is always just like pouring water into a pile of sand. If Dr. Montgomery will take this up with Mr. Danks, perhaps he may find some good cheer awaiting him. Mr. Danks knows about the rule governing the use of funds secured from the sale of mission property, and he is favorable to that rule, or was some years back. Maybe everything can be worked out so as to avoid the heavy repair expenditure we find confronting us at Juneau.

6). Regarding the increased school term in Native villages: ANGOON'S term of layman service should cover eight months - September first till April 30. Which means that for the current church year there will be but seven months to provide for.

KLUKWAN should run from Sept. 1 till March 31, or seven months.

KAKE should run from Sept. 1 till May 31. Which makes but seven months for the current year to take care of, but nine months in all.

HYDABURG same as at present.

SAXMAN should run from Sept 1 till March 31, and very probably till May 31. Which would be nine months, and will mean an increase of wages to the extent of a few dollars. The present wage is so low that I dislike to write it - \$100.00 for six months.

CRAIG is a problem we are not yet prepared to offer a definite solution for. If we move Sam Davis over to Hydaburg for the winter and put John Brown at Kasaan, Sam could come up to Craig for two weeks each month, traveling by mail boat. If he must bear his own charges while in Craig, the cost per month additional to present wage will be, as a minimum, \$20.00 a month. But there is no place yet known from which such a sum can be procured. Maybe we cannot make that proposed change. Sam should have larger work in the winter than at Kasaan. Kasaan needs him more in summer than in winter. So speak up, ~~yes~~ ye who may be wise enough to solve such riddles, and show where lies the treasure we need and would gladly seek and find.

7). We rejoice that Verne John Swanson will join Mr. Waggoner in Seattle, to assume a co-partnership in management of that boat, the Princeton. May Mr. Waggoner's heart be cheered by sight of such relief, and may the new man find joy in his new and trying line of service! Mr. Waggoner should have a year's vacation, or at least six months. Maybe by a year from now he can be given just that, if the new man becomes a thorough master of the craft and gets the line of work also thoroughly in hand. The chairman has heard of a shadowy, intangible, Sabbatical year, once thrust upon one Rev. Wallace Sutton Harple, in which he studied, traveled some, and got his salary meanwhile. It may be that no other man could ever have such a thing happen to him, for he may be an unusual man and I am sure none of the rest of us ~~are~~ can so regard ourselves. But, Dr. Montgomery, try it on Waggoner, if you see the least hope of success. He needs it, deserves it, and would welcome it. Thus endeth encyclical No. 66666. Station KJH signing off.

Robert Joseph Diven announcing

Robert Joseph Diven

July 2, 1930

Rev. Dr. Robert Joseph Diven
Wrangell, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Diven:

At last after all these days my desk has been cleared to the point where I can take up certain matters that you have presented, especially in your letter of June 6th. May I for the moment call your attention to the fact that the \$448.59 which have been sent to Waggoner for the Princeton represent all that we can get this year? David in a recent letter asked for some minor repairs that may be needed, but he will have to wait, at any rate, until April 1, 1931, for any more repairs.

There is a rising tide of criticism against the cost of maintenance of the Princeton, including the repairs, and with this is a questioning of the ultimate profit of this boat to our work. I would not be at all surprised if during the year we here at headquarters would have to face some pretty serious questions in regard to the function of this boat.

I am glad Mrs. Tamaree will remain in Petersburg until the end of the present year. That will be fine. At the end of that time it will be possible, no doubt, to have arranged plans for the continued supply of Petersburg, and these plans ought not to involve, if we can help it, any extra money for fitting up the building.

I absolutely agree with you that the church at Ketchikan must be asked to so contribute to the amount of the salary for their ministry that the Board can decrease the amount which it has to pay.

As to the amount of money received from the sale of the old building in Juneau, together with the money received from the sale of a lot there, I have made inquiries at the Treasurer's office and find that this amount was not held in a separate account, but was long ago turned over into the general property account and is now no more. As I understand it, this property was sold before Mr. Banks visited Alaska, and the probabilities are that when he visited Alaska the funds had already been turned into the general property account. However, Mr. Banks is away for a few days. When he returns I will take the matter up with him. He may be able to give a more optimistic report, but I doubt it.

I have noted that you want Klukwan, Kake and Saxman to be served for the remaining part of the current fiscal year for seven months from September first. Hydaburg is to be served for nine months in the year, as at present. I think, without having gone through the long process of figuring up our Balances and expectations, I think probably we can do this, but if we

July 2, 1930

do, it is entirely impossible to do anything more in Alaska this year for the reason that we will have spent all of our money.

Mr. Waggoner's vacation, of course, is a matter which is outside of the regular rules of the Board governing such vacations, unless I am greatly mistaken. He is on Mr. Somerndike's budget and is subject to such administrative arrangements as Mr. Somerndike may think best to agree to. When the rules for vacations in Alaska were drawn up by the Board six years ago, it was the understanding that they were to apply to those missionaries who are under the Alaska sub-department. In saying this, however, I do not mean to imply that Mr. Waggoner will have difficulty in getting the proper vacation. I think Mr. Somerndike will be very glad to arrange for it. In the meantime, however, you should know this situation. Do not raise the issue with David. Let him take it up naturally, when the time comes, with Mr. Somerndike. The giving of a sabbatical year to Mr. Marple was a freak piece of administration. It occurred before I assumed any authority for the work and, as I understand, it was done without the knowledge of the late Dr. Young. So far as I can understand, it was arrived at by correspondence on the part of Mr. Marple, himself, with certain officers of the Board who were not directly responsible for the Alaska work. It has always been a matter that has caused difficulty in explaining. I hope Mr. Marple received full benefit of this year of sabbatic leave, because it has caused no little worry to the present administration of Alaska matters in explaining how it all came about.

With hearty good wishes, I am,

Yours very cordially

A. J. Montgomery, Director
Town and Country Department

AJM-VP

AGM
JUL 31 1930

Wrangell, Alaska, July 22, 1930.


Rev. F. R. Falconer,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Brother Falconer:

Your good letter of July ninth, written from Douglastown, B. C., Canada, is before me, and assuming that you will soon be back in Ketchikan I am addressing this to you at that place.

The Board is in hearty sympathy with our announced policy concerning missionaries removing from parishes: that no man be unduly hurried in his departure, but that he be given a reasonable time to adjust his affairs and find a new location. It is, however, to be remembered that such leeway should in no case be overdrawn. In conference with Rev. Mr. Waggoner last night, from all he was able to discern as to the best interests of the work in Ketchikan, we are moved to urge you to vacate by October first. It would seem very inadvisable for you to attempt to resume the work there with any appearance of a continuance in that pastorate. Your salary will, of course, continue at least till that date, and if you can possibly get your house sold, or otherwise disposed of by that time, something definite can then be done for the parish. Without some date being set for closing your pastorate and setting up another there, you can see how impossible it will be for us to make any sort of arrangement in behalf of the church. The good work you have done should be conserved, and any dissention at this juncture will surely cause loss; though, do not think that we are swayed by fear of dissention; everything seems to be placid to date, but the people are surely anticipating a change of pastorate at as early a date as possibly can be arranged for. I am hoping that you either have, or will have, found a new place very soon - and I realize how hard a thing it is to relocate in these evil days of unrest. Dr. Montgomery is doing all he can, and both Waggoner and I have been using our best efforts. Continuance in that parish throughout the fall and winter would, we fully believe, be attended with enlarged difficulties for yourself as well as the parish. So please act with all possible celerity, and call upon us for any help you believe we may be able to render. . . . And I wonder if you realize with what pangs of regret I write these lines. Uneasy rests the head that wears the chairman's crown of - nettles.

Very truly yours,


Robert Joseph Diven.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY

OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, July 23, 1930.

Dr. Andrew J. Montgomery,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

Waggoner and I had a conference relative to a number of matters, most of which remain unchanged:

- 1). No change in distribution of laymen this coming fall and winter, but the proposed longer period of service for the year should be established, as you already know about and believe you can finance, according to schedule sent you after meeting of Presbytery.
- 2). No funds being available to cover certain expenses incident to a switch of Davis to the west coast and Brown to Kasaan, that plan has seemed impossible to develop at this time, or within a year. Waggoner will render all possible aid to Craig, Hydaburg, and Klawock, as provisional moderator of their sessions and circulating member of the N.M. Committee.
- 3). Sitka shingles have been purchased and work is probably going on, or surely will go on, just as soon as the materials get there. Mr. Webster is seeing to that.
- 4). Juneau (S.S.M.'s manse) is being reroofed, under direction of Rev. Mr. Waggoner.
- 5). We know nothing further to date concerning Haines manse plans, money, materials, contract, and so on. We take it for granted that that is all being handled from headquarters directly with Bromley at Haines. The money should be sent to him for disbursement, so that it can be promptly done, unless you have already sent it to Gene Gould, at Seattle - which will be, perhaps, just as good. Any good way so it is done and done while the good weather lasts.
- 6). We note your intention to interview Mr. Banks about the money secured through sale of old Native church in Juneau.
- 7). Waggoner and I regard that unsigned communication from Haines as the work of some poor psychopath. We are not mentioning it to Bromley, because we believe he should not be disturbed by its inanities.
- 8). The communication from Mrs. Willie Ross was, perhaps, written by a low-grade white there and made to sound like the composition of an Indian. Note the spelling of hard words and the obviously misspelled simple words. Dirty politics and perhaps disappointed hopes of gain have prompted it. You might do well to encourage a fuller disclosure of what is in the master mind, whoever it belongs to, for the fuller he or she speaks the clearer he or she will make her designs known, though that will not be the intention. I am returning the letter, which it will be well, for the worker's sake, to keep on file till later. The whole scheme and manner of its accomplishment were examined and approved by recognized engineers of skill and influence. The "touch" for support of politicians is not in our budget.

9). Nothing stirring as yet in Douglas.

10). Mr.Waggoner has been asked to procure the iron and so on for Klawock manse repairs,as has been provided for by the fifty dollars you say has been appropriated for such use. Please send the money to Waggoner as soon as you get his requisition for actual outlay. I have not yet heard from him since I wired the instructions concerning the materials.

11). For your information: Since Rev.Verne J.Swanson,Mate on the Princeton,has his residence aboard the said Princeton,getting his sustenance there also,it has been deemed wise to continue to permit the present renters to occupy the house belonging to the Board, otherwise designated as General Missionary's manse and the intended residence of said Verne J.Swanson when he shall leave the water and take to the land with a wife - which he as yet does not have. Taxes are levied upon said manse and must be paid;repairs are constant in their demands,and rentals from said manse,so long as not occupied by Rev.Mr.Swanson,will help defray such expenses accruing while the house is thus not in use as a minister's habitat.

12). Thanks for the hundred for use in getting books for the teachers of laymen and prospective ministry students.

13.) Several difficult points appear in the schedule you submit as a memorandum of a scheme worked out by Dr.Condit,Mr.Yaw,Mr. Webster,and ~~Miss Voss~~. Much of it I, personally, approve very heartily; those parts of it are not at all new to our thoughts,for they have been before us in substantially that form for some years,as both a need and an opportunity - yea,a necessity. Just as a suggestion in line of the difficulties,permit me to refer to a church manned by students,on the campus. Anything listed as a church,under our order of church government,will,of necessity,be manned by really-truly elders and will,of like necessity,be under direction and control of any Presbytery to which it belongs,and there is no other Presbytery to which a church there could belong. And a second sticker,one for which I have no wisdom at present,the one over which I did not enthuse a bit while talking to Miss Voss for the two hours she and I mascerated the linen,in my study,is the procedure by which a church might cease to be one thing and become another thing and still remain upon the same foundation - both geographically and otherwise. If any such attempt is made,I still think,just as I stated and restated to the good lady,that some authorized member of the Board should visit the parish,meet the assembled representatives and canvass the whole matter,so that no single item involved can ever be pointed to as highhandedness or unfairness. So much of unhappiness has harbored around church life in that dear old town,both before my acquaintance with it and since,that any radical changes will require a very superior wisdom to carry forward to successful issues. Anything smacking of haste would,I believe,militate against the best interests of the whole effort. The annual meeting will be soon enough for most of the matters to be taken up,for the men who will have to do the most of the work will then have that vision that comes after mature and careful thought. That the teaching work should delay till then,if there is demand for it now,seems to me quite unnecessary. But this is only your chairman's reaction;the Committee has had no chance to canvass the details. As clearer vision is vouchsafed me I shall deliver myself,to you,of any wise plans I may see approach me from across the now dim horizons.

Very truly yours,
Robert Joseph Diven. *Robert Joseph Diven*

Wrangell, Alaska, July 29, 1930.

Rev. Edward Marsden,
Netlakatla, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Marsden:

I was glad to see in your recent report the account of the helpful activities of your elders during the summer. It is just such work as that that helps hold the people steady in the summer season, when there are so many bold attempts by evil men to draw the people away from their faith and their church. Please pass on to them my hearty appreciation, and assure them that they are ever in my remembrance as I daily ask that God's rich blessings shall rest on all our scattered people.

The meeting of Synod seemed to me a very happy and spiritual one - a big improvement over some I have attended. Did it seem so to you? I trust that you are in health and that the new glasses are working well. Remember me kindly to the family, please.

Very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven
Robert Joseph Diven.

2714
AUG 25 1930

Wrangell, Alaska, August 18, 1930.

William L. Paul, Esq.,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Paul:

Thank you ever so much for that clear and sane word about Ketchikan church situations and outlook. I am in hearty agreement with everything you said in your letter; it is not only the attitude of clear-headed business today, but it is also the attitude of the spirit that makes for spiritual growth.

I am hoping to hear that you got to see Doctor Andrew J. Montgomery as he passed through on the Dorothy. We asked Mr. Waggoner to accompany him to Ketchikan, to look the ground over, and to put you out so as to talk with you.

Since their steamer left, a nasty cold has developed and I am all but down again. This is what is driving me from the country, perhaps for always. The several cases of influenza of the past two years have lowered my resistance so much, that every time I get near a fever cold it fastens on me like a gnat to a sheet of fly-paper. A radical change of climate is what is ordered, and surely we are preparing to obey orders - the Gulf coast, at the southern tip of Florida; where tomatoes begin to ripen November first, and where alligators are always in bloom. You see, I am not sick, but I am endeavoring to avoid coming into that condition and so remaining. I shall hope to be kicking up my heels, like any other colt, in a very short time. Please give my love to the family; and if ten days later will do for you to receive a short sketch concerning Dr. Condit, you shall have it; just now I am not fit to take that on, especially with the other numerous tasks that are taking all my time.

Very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven
Robert Joseph Diven.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, August 20, 1930.

Dr. A. J. Montgomery,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

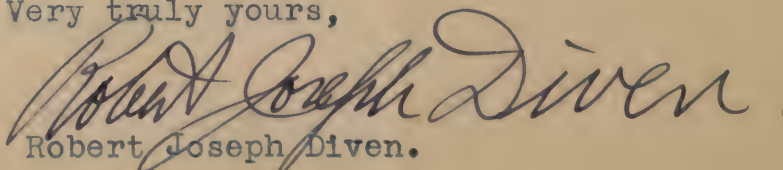
Dear Dr. Montgomery:

After reading the inclosed, please hand it and its attachments to Dr. Brauer. It is a letter of clarification and a receipt for the street money as paid.

I am setting the men to their usual tasks, at the stipulated times (see report of some weeks ago), and advising all the laymen that if it be found possible to extend the period of service this current year it will be done, but not to depend on its being done. Seward Kunz will be offered the lengthened term, of course, as we talked about doing; he will have to get it if he is to return to Klukwan and maintain himself on the wage of \$75.00 a month. There will be no change in the others, unless it is made later in the year. This will safeguard the Presbytery and yourself against having to shorten the term next year, in case that has to be done, and if the Natives bestir themselves in their own behalf they can do much more, in some cases, than they are now doing. Mrs. Tamaree is a sample of that: they are making improvements and paying the bills, so she says, and it is making them happy to be doing it.

No word has yet come from David as to what you saw and heard at Ketchikan. I really wonder if William Paul may not be right in his surmise that the Indians there would all go into the Episcopal church and be happy, and that since ~~the~~ the Lutherans are building a good church out where Mr. Olts is running that Seattle Sunday school there is no need at all for Presbyterian work in that town. Abandonment of the field, after this period of meeting a real need. Since Bishop Rowe built that neat and commodious plant up the gulch the Natives have a good place to go, which they did not have before. It would surely simplify our problem mightily, were we to abandon the Ketchikan work; it would also seem like a move in the direction of practical comity with Christian folk, regardless of how they wear their collars. Preempting the ground, as at Craig, and contesting the ground, as at Sitka and elsewhere, must surely stop in the near future. Christian grace is not being built up by such methods, I am sure - Wrangell to the fore as a witness, or horrible example. Corser and bad tactics on the part of Presbytery, twenty-five years ago, split Wrangell wide open; the split is not yet healed, and both churches are weak and ineffective - at least, they are not meeting the needs as they could have done if that crime had not been committed in the name of the Lord, twenty-five years ago.

Very truly yours,


Robert Joseph Diven.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
Chairman of the Committee
Box 275, Wrangell, Alaska
REV. GEORGE J. BECK, Hoonah
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, Juneau

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
Chairman of the Committee
Sunday School Missionary
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
Box 964, Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, August 23, 1930.

SEP 2 1930

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

I put into the mail Mr. Falconer's letter and my reply, so that you may have the fullest information as to his mind and also what the chairman has to say. Surely he cannot accuse the chairman of not telling him frankly what is regarded as being wrong, as another gentleman once did. Fred might have informed us, I think, that he was tarrying down below, and not have kept us waiting so long for a reply. However, men think differently about many things, and it is evident that his mind does not run along lines such as some other minds have to take. I am heartily sorry for him, but if a man will not study along lines that modern tasks demand, I can not see any way to be of any great service, especially in such a case as this. I would hardly approve the man he names, though he might be a good one, at that. You will know better than I can know. And how I wish I might be of larger service to you in your great work!

By shinning along briskly I may get this into the Northwestern's mail pouch before the gang-plank is hauled in. I got the other letter into the regular Wrangell southbound mail. If Russell Pederson is made the chairman, I think such men as Fred will get a jogging up more promptly than under this old stick that is now passing out of office. Maybe I have been too easy; but I resent any accusations to the effect that I have ever failed to tell a man what was deemed wrong with his work, or have ever neglected him in trouble. My nerves would perhaps be lots stronger right now if I had never met some men I could name, whose ways were past finding out and whose clamor sometimes echoed to the skies. Requiescat in pace! "And may the pace be swift!"

Hastily and very truly,

Robert Joseph Diven

Wranqell, Alaska, August 23, 1930.

SEP 2 1930

Mr. Haynes DeWitt,
Eake, Alaska.

My dear Mr. DeWitt:

I hope you will be ready to begin work as usual, September first, and that you will have a prosperous year. There is not yet any certainty that a lengthened term of service can be granted there for this year, for the very good reason that the money has not yet become available for such extension. As you very well know, the Board can not pay out money it does not have, and its only source of revenue is the membership of our church throughout the nation.

It However, I am sure you will do good work and keep steady as long as is possible. All over the land people are having to do without things they want, just because they cannot afford them; and the same is bound to be true in Alaska. Like good Alaskans we will just go ahead and do our best, and times will be better someday.

Old Mr. Influenza has not been real good to me and I am having to go south to hunt some of that sunshine that almost fried the fat out of you while you were at Assembly. I have every reason to expect to become strong again. I will miss you all, and I shall ever pray that you will all keep going ahead; it is the only way. Dr. Montgomery is doing his best for all of us.

Very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven.

Prancell, Alaska, August 23, 1930.

Mr. Samuel G. Johnson,
Angoon, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I hope you will be ready to begin work in the church at Angoon the first of September, or as near that date as the people require your services. It is not sure that any lengthened term of service can be financed by the Board, for the very good reason that the Board cannot pay out money it does not have. And you know, of course, that the only source of mission revenue is the gifts of the membership of our church throughout the nation. We are hoping to see it made possible for you to keep on through the month of April, which would make seven months, if you begin September first. But do not depend on this, unless you get further advice from the Committee. The wage will be the same as last year, \$75.00 a month.

I am sorry to be leaving all you cheerful folks, but Old Mr. Influenza has not treated me very well for a year or two and I am going south to hunt some more sunshine. If Alaska had more sunshine and less "moonshine", how much better it would be for both Natives and whites. May God bless and keep you and your people.

Very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven.

(Jm)

Wrangell, Alaska, August 23, 1930.

Mr. George McKay,
Box 95,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Mr. McKay:

It is almost time for you to be at work again at Saxman, shepherding the sheep there. Usually you begin ~~September~~ first and continue six months. This is the plan for you for this fall, and the wage will be the same, \$16.85 a month. As yet we do not know who the new minister will be at Ketchikan, but your services will surely be needed at Saxman, just the same as ever, at least till the new man is on the field and gets accustomed to the work. I have no doubt you will be needed the full six months, just as before.

I am going south, as you may have heard. It is with genuine regret that I go, but it is best, I am sure. I fully expect to get built up again so that I will not catch these infectious colds, whenever I get close to one. They have greatly interfered with my work for some time. May the peace of God, which always seems so great a boon to you and such a comfort in your work, be yours in all the days to come. Express my sincere regard for your people, if you please, and urge them to do their best to keep away from the evil things and follow after the things that make them strong and kind of heart.

Very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven

8/16

Wrangell, Alaska, August 23, 1930.

Rev. F. F. Falconer,
Box 215,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

My Dear Mr. Falconer:

Yours of the 22nd August is just off the British boat this morning, and as the Northwestern is now in sight going south I shall do my best to get off a brief reply, as you requested.

Unless Doctor Montgomery has secured a man since he passed Wrangell southbound, with Mr. Laggoner, on the last trip of the Dorothy Alexander, there is not yet a man ready to step into your old parish. As to preaching to the people through the month of September, I know no reason why you should not do it, if you are not in quest of a new parish elsewhere. I recommended and urged that your salary be continued at least till October first, that you might have the financial support while looking for a new field. If you are now in Ketchikan and making no effort to secure a parish, in the only manner that is open to long-time missionaries, namely, hunt one, I see no reason why you should not preach, if it is agreeable to you to do so, but with the clear understanding that the parish is not being taken over again for a continuance of the old pastorate. So far as I am concerned as still the chairman of this Committee, I hope you will receive your salary at least till October first, whether you preach in Ketchikan or elsewhere. From past observations I know how hard it is for a man to get a pastorate in the States after he has been long in Alaska; and just as the chief difficulty in your late work arose out of that lack of training so generally regarded as essential for the ministry, so your chief difficulty in finding a new pastorate will be found to lie in the same quarter: educated and trained men is a growing demand on the part of the church people. No man could hope to have a higher rating than you held in Ketchikan as a good man and a gentleman; but however your parishioners may seem toward you just now, there has been for some years a growing dissatisfaction with your preaching. And as a bit of information for your own personal satisfaction, this chairman has been belabored on more than one occasion for not taking steps to urge you to seek work elsewhere. We thought you were going to do so two years ago, and believing that always the missionary should have every opportunity to seek work when either he or his parish desired a change, we trusted to your own good judgement, and in such confidence the other members of the Committee were clearly united with the chairman. This is being said in order that you shall know as clearly as my poor words can express the situation. And remember that if there is anything that I can do or say that might be of service to you, please ask me. I am leaving soon, to hunt sunshine. Old Mr. Influenza has not been very good to me, and the recurrent colds interfere with my work to a great extent, though I am not down sick; nor anywhere near that state, I hope.... With every good wish I remain

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Dyer

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Wrangell, Alaska, August 23, 1930.

Mr. John Brown,
Nydaburg, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Brown:

I hope you are well and ready to take up your work again this fall, running through nine months, same as last year. The wages will be the same each month, and you will send in your reports just the same as last year.

Old Mr. Influenza has not treated me at all fairly for a year and I am going south this fall to hunt sunshine and get built up again. I catch these infectious colds too readily and it interferes greatly with my work.

May the blessing of God be on you and your people this year. I shall remember them in my daily devotions, and please pass on to them my friendly regards and good wishes. And may you and your family be richly blessed in all your work.

Very truly yours,

Robert Joseph Diven.

ALASKA

file 29

Sept. 24, 1930.

SEP 24 1930

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

For your most wonderful assistance in my time of perplexity permit me to thank you most sincerely. My words do not adequately express my feelings. If there should come any opportunity for me to render service to you or the Board in coming days, please command me. We start south this evening at six.

My cold is better, but it still bothers me a little. Saw Dr. Holt last night. He is well and just as happy as ever. I shall write as soon as I get to the alligator capital.

Very truly yours,
Paul Joseph Silver.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D.
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
BOX 275, WRANGELL, ALASKA

REV. GEORGE J. BECK, HOONAH
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, JUNEAU

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REV. DAVID WAGGONER
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONARY
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER
BOX 564, JUNEAU, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY

OF ALASKA

804964 - SEP 30 1930

WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Joseph Diven, have lived in our midst for many years and have given freely of themselves and their substance for the promotion of Christian friendship in the Territory of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Joseph Diven has been a member of the Presbytery of Alaska and has helped to promote the work of the church by his faith and Godly example, serving as pastor in Petersburg, Sitka, and Wrangell, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Diven has served with wisdom and untiring zeal as Chairman of the National Missions Committee of the Presbytery of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Diven have transferred their field of service to another church and Presbytery,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Presbytery of Alaska, duly met in Juneau, Alaska, this ninth day of September, 1930, extend to Dr. and Mrs. Diven this expression of gratitude for their devoted service with us and our wish for God's speed in their new field of Christian endeavor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Presbytery of Alaska send these resolutions as a part of the letter of dismissal of Dr. Robert Joseph Diven, and ~~he~~ hereby affectionately commends him to his Brethren with whom he shall labor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That copies of these resolutions be sent to Dr. and Mrs. Diven, to the Board of National Missions, and to the Presbytery of Southwest Florida, and that they be spread upon the minutes of Presbytery.

Attest:-

David Waggoner,

David Waggoner
Stated Clerk.

October 1, 1930

Memo From A. J. Montgomery
To Rev. E. Graham Wilson
Dr. McLowell
Dr. Morse
Mr. Riggs

The Presbytery of Alaska in a pro re nata meeting, recently, took notice of the services of Dr. and Mrs. Diven for so many years in Alaska, through action, as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED: That the Presbytery of Alaska, duly met in Juneau, Alaska, this ninth day of September, 1930, extend to Dr. and Mrs. Diven this expression of gratitude for their devoted service with us and our wish for godspeed in their new field of Christian endeavor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Presbytery of Alaska send these resolutions as a part of the letter of dismissal of Dr. Robert Joseph Diven, and hereby affectionately commends him to his Brethren with whom he shall labor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That copies of these resolutions be sent to Dr. and Mrs. Diven, to the Board of National Missions, and to the Presbytery of Southwest Florida, and that they be spread upon the minutes of Presbytery.

Attest:- David Waggoner

(Signed David Waggoner)

Stated Clerk."

October 20, 1930

Rev. Dr. Robert Joseph Diven
Everglades
Florida.

My dear Dr. Diven:

Friday afternoon, October 17, we received from Pederson a wire to the effect that the church at Wrangell had burned and was a total loss, the manse being unharmed. The morning of the 18th I had a wire from Dave Waggoner confirming the previous wire and asking how much insurance we have.

I am, therefore, happy to tell you that some time ago Mr. Brauer and myself decided that the usual 80% value for insurance was too little at Wrangell. We, therefore, had the policy increased to \$9000. I presume that this amount will be available. At any rate it will be a nest egg toward rebuilding the church.

I am sorry to channel such news to you but the building is down and you might as well know it as soon as possible.

With kind regards,

Yours very cordially

A. J. Montgomery, Director
Town and Country Department

AJM-VP

October 27, 1930

Alaska

Rev. Dr. Robert Joseph Diven
Everglades, Florida.

My dear Dr. Diven:

Your very welcome letter of October 23 has just been received. Unfortunately I know nothing more yet about the causes of the fires at Wrangell than do you. We have sent plans up to Pederson for his approval. The plans are a replica of the building which is just now under construction at Fairbanks. The cost, I suppose, will be, at Wrangell, something like \$11,000. It will make a handsome building and will be a credit to our work in Alaska. I am a little bit anxious to have some good looking buildings in the tourist sections for the tourist is more subject to the law of appearances than any other animal on earth.

I am sorry to hear that the financial situation is not as promising as might be at Everglades. In view of the situation up here I can easily understand it. In spite of all the loud trumpeting about prosperity, Prosperity delays her appearance.

Both Mr. Lynn and Mr. Glenn can give you valuable pointers about our Seminole work. On account of several peculiar angles I think this work will interest you mightily.

The avid editors around here are already beginning to moisten their chops in expectation of an article which they hope you will be inspired to write in, say, a year from now, about these Seminoles.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours very cordially

A. J. Montgomery, Director
Town and Country Department

AJM-VP

Alaska

Everglades, Oct. 23, 1930.

OCT 27 1930

Rev. A. J. Montgomery, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

It was a big shock to get Pederson's cable the day the old church burned, but when he said a Stikine wind was blowing I could easily understand how impossible it would be to save the building if it should once get on fire: dry as tinder excepting when it is raining, and it never rains when a Stikine wind is blowing. I did not learn how it started, but it had brick chimneys only and no through-the-wall pipes as it used to have, and the wiring was all according to city requirements, having been approved by the city's man. I am glad to hear that you have that amount of insurance in force, for while no such tall and heavy structure will be needed in these modern days, it will take ten thousand to set an adequate building in the place of the old one. A pretty, medium-sized, modern bungalow style ~~stone~~ church is what they need there, according to my notion. And as to the loss of the old one, nobody knows better than I do how rapidly that structure was slipping down the way toward the western horizon; it was badly wracked many years ago by a Stikine wind, long before my day; and while it was in good and usable shape and would have stood for several more years, it was weakening in many points and must have, in less than ten years, succumbed to time and wear and been replaced by a new structure. After its wracking experience, it was drawn together and the iron rods put across it, making it much sturdier than it ever had been, for it has withstood heavier winds in the past few years than the one that so nearly wrecked it many years ago. Requiescat in pace! And I do hope my little brochure will help make easier the raising of more money for that and other work. I like things down here very well, but I shall always be deeply interested in Alaska. I am to deliver a lecture here on Alaska, next Sunday night. They asked me to do it. They have missed a tornado or hurricane this year, and all are feeling happy over the fact; but it looks as if the big chief meant to ease up here and do no more development work. I am listening, but saying nothing. Nobody owns anything here but the one man, and he sells nothing, so I am told. It is a gem of a place, and people are very nice, but they are surely on an uneasy seat just now. Recently the chief got almost down here, then turned quickly back to New York, for no reason that anybody seems to know. We are having good attendance and I will soon have in my book the tabulated names of every resident anywhere near here, and very soon I will be able to name every man, woman, and child in town as I meet them on the streets. I set that as a task to be mastered at an early date, and it is much more than one-half done now; as soon as I get a car things will move faster - unless the car jumps into the river or heads for the bay or a telegraph pole. My freight bill from Tampa will be more than double the estimate that was made in Seattle, for there is no competition along this part of the coast and they surely sock on the tariff. I was inquiring a few days ago. But that is only another of the fortunes of war and work; no way to help it. The management has cut out passes for the local minister and wife, as used to be given. The present manager is an Episcopalian and his wife a Catholic, a mixture of French and Spanish, very fine folks but not likely to boost our line of work very heavily; yet they are very cordial, and we have a number of advantages that we appreciate, such as free use of the Club House for services. I have made the first two contacts with the Indians, but they do not know it, I imagine; they

are a peculiar people, sure enough. I did a bunch of them a small favor one day, and they were interested to know who it was who had done it. I am to visit a man who can tell me much about them, a man who is a friend of the Indian, as soon as I can get my own conveyance. Getting anywhere with those people will surely be slow and perhaps as careful a job as handling a Chinese puzzle. They are interesting to a degree. At Synòd I hope to meet Mr. Lynn and Mr. Glenn, who can enlighten me a lot, no doubt.

Very truly yours,

Dinner,

Wrangell, Alaska

Montgomery

October 31, 1930

Rev. Robert Joseph Diven
Everglades, Florida

Copy for Dr. Montgomery

" for Rev. Russell F. Pederson

My dear Mr. Diven,

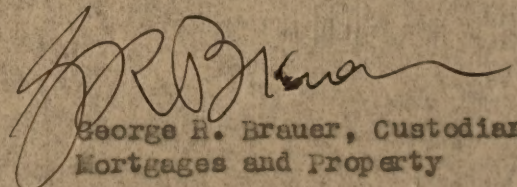
I was glad to get your letter, which reads as follows:

"I have no knowledge of the cost of the old church at Wrangell, and I very much doubt if there is any record now in existence that will shed any light on the question. Much of the lumber was taken up from Portland, I have been told; the foundation posts were yellow cedar, indestructible and procured right there. If a modern church, bungalow type (which would keep it from getting up too far in the breezy atmosphere) is used in replacement, ten thousand dollars should put up an adequate and very attractive structure. And that sum should enable the Board to replace the fine piano that the Aid Society had placed in the church if it too was burned. They paid \$450 for the instrument and had no insurance on it. The Society there should be given every consideration in the adjustment of affairs there though they perhaps regard the loss as an absolute one and without hope of recovery. I chance to know that they are not now situated to do such a thing as they did when they furnished that manse and put the piano in the church; the strength of that organization is largely gone, through removals that are no likely to be replaced soon."

In regard to the piano - I wish you to know that we had it insured here. We were carrying \$1,000 insurance on the contents (although we did not know the exact value of the contents) to be on the safe side, and not only was the piano covered, but all other contents whatsoever.

I am sending Mr. Pederson a copy of this letter and I am asking him to include the piano in the list of contents destroyed.

Sincerely yours


George R. Brauer, Custodian
Mortgages and Property

GRB/HD